

**OPINION 6**  
WHY MEN ARE MORE  
EQUAL THAN WOMEN

**WORLD 8**  
RUSSIA SETS CEASE-FIRE FOR  
EVACUATIONS BUT BATTLES ON

**MONEY 9**  
INVESTORS LOSE ₹11.28  
LAKH CRORE IN FOUR DAYS

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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## CAPSULE

**BSF JAWAN KILLS SELF, COLLEAGUE AT CAMP**  
**Kolkata:** A BSF jawan allegedly shot himself dead after killing a colleague at a camp in West Bengal's Murshidabad along the India-Bangladesh border on Monday, a day after five troops of the force were killed in a fratricidal incident at a base along the Pakistan front. **P4**

**NSE EX-MD REMANDED IN 7-DAY CBI CUSTODY**  
**New Delhi:** A Delhi court on Monday sent former managing director and chief executive officer of National Stock Exchange Chitra Ramkrisna to 7-day CBI custody in the NSE co-location scam case, saying her custodial interrogation was required for fair and proper investigations. **P4**

**BATLA: HC TO HEAR PLEA AGAINST DEATH PENALTY**  
**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court on Monday said it will commence hearing on March 21 to examine the trial court verdict awarding death sentence to Ariz Khan for the murder of decorated Delhi Police Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma in connection with the sensational 2008 Batla House encounter case.

**MAHA MINISTER NAWAB MALIK IN 14-DAY JAIL**  
**Mumbai:** A special court here on Monday remanded Maharashtra Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik in 14-day judicial custody in a money laundering probe linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides. Malik was arrested on February 23 by the ED after being questioned for five hours.

# BJP retains UP, AAP wrests Punjab: Exit polls

UTTAR PRADESH (403)			
TIMES NOW VETO	CNN NEWS18	INDIA TODAY	
BJP	225	240	307
SP	151	140	86
BSP	14	17	6
Cong	9	0	2
Others	4	6	3

PUNJAB (117)			
TIMES NOW VETO	INDIA TODAY	CHANAKYA	
AAP	70	83	100
Cong	22	24	10
SAD	19	7	6
BJP	5	2	1
Others	1	1	0

UTTARAKHAND (70)			
TIMES NOW VETO	INDIA TODAY	CHANAKYA	
BJP	37	41	43
Cong	31	25	24
AAP	1	0	0
Others	1	4	3

GOA (40)			
INDIA TODAY	C-VOTER	TIMES NOW VETO	
BJP	16	15	14
Cong	17	14	16
AAP	0	4	4
MGP	3	2	0
Others	6	3	6

MANIPUR (60)			
INDIA TODAY	C-VOTER		
BJP	38	25	
Cong	6	14	
NPP	6	12	
Others	11	7	

## Cliffhanger in Uttarakhand, Goa

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The exit polls on Monday predicted the return of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, the AAP scoring a historic win in Punjab, a close contest in Uttarakhand with the BJP having a decisive edge in the hill State, and Goa heading for a hung Assembly. The ruling BJP is set to emerge as the single largest party in Manipur and is in a position to form Government in the NE State.

The exit polls could further compound the problems for the Congress leadership and give voice to a section of leaders who have been demanding a comprehensive change in the organisational structure.

Two days ago, BJP president JP Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah predicted that the BJP will form Governments in four out of five States which went to the polls, Uttar Pradesh was on top of their list. The exit polls seemed to prove them right.

Similarly, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal was on dot in claiming that his party will score a big win in Punjab and oust the Congress Government there. Exit polls have given the AAP a comfortable majority in the border State where the Congress could never overcome its infighting.

Without exception, all exit polls on Monday predicted a comfortable win for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh. The Axis-My India went a step further, projecting 288-326 seats for the ruling party, which would even surpass BJP's 2017 feat.

The exit polls show that Samajwadi Party's politics of caste arithmetic was no match for BJP's focus on highlighting free rations, the crackdown on crime mafia, women safety and security, and its Hindutva pitch.

Reacting to the exit polls, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "I thank all the BJP workers. Elections were conducted peacefully in UP. I thank the Election Commission for conducting free and fair elections."

In UP, India Today-My Axis gives the BJP as many as 288 to 326 seats as against 71

to 101 to the Samajwadi Party (SP) and 1 to 3 to the Congress. ETG research predicted 230 to 245 for the BJP in UP, SP plus 150-165, BSP 5-10, and Congress 1-3.

In a similar way, India News anticipates 222 to 260 seats in UP, the SP winning 135-165, BSP 4-9, and the Congress again performing poorly gaining only 1 to 3 seats of total 403 Assembly seats.

News X-Polstrat puts the BJP plus seats anywhere between 2011 and 225, SP plus 146-160 and the BSP 14-24.

Times Now-VETO gives the BJP+ 225 seats in UP with the SP+ collecting 151, the BSP 17, and the Congress only five seats.

For UP "Poll of exit polls" predicts 240 for the BJP, the SP 142, the BSP 12, and the Congress confined to five seats.

Zee News-DESIGN-BOXED anticipates the BJP plus to get 223-248, the SP plus 138-157, and the BSP 5-11 and the Congress 5-9.

The AAP is predicted to be favourite in Punjab in nearly all the exit polls.

ABP News-C-Voter gives the AAP 51-61, the Congress



Citizens wait to cast their vote, during the 7th and last phase of Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, outside a polling booth, in Jaunpur district

PTI

22-28, tge Akalis 20-26 and tge BJP 7-13.

For Punjab, India Today-Axis My India places the AAP with 76 to 90 seats of a total 117, the Congress 19-31, the Akalis 7-11 and the BJP 7-11 as Times Now-Veto again gives the AAP 70 seats as against the Congress 21, the Akali 19, and the BJP 3-7.

ETG research also gives a high of 70-75 to AAP, Congress 27-33, Akalis plus 7-13 and the BJP plus 3-7. News 24-Today's Chanakya gave AAP a high of

100 seats while the Congress reduced to 10, Akalis 6, and BJP to one seat in Punjab.

India News, however, gave the AAP less of 39-43, the Congress 23-26, the Akalis 22-25, and the BJP 6-8 seats in Punjab. In all, poll of 7 exit polls shows AAP win in Punjab.

According to exit polls, Goa could be headed for a hung Assembly, Uttarakhand may have a keen contest with the ruling BJP having an edge over the Congress.

Today's Chanakya predicts

# Modi talks with Putin, Zelenskyy

## PM calls for dialogue to end crisis, safety of stranded Indians

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stepping up efforts to bring Sout all the Indians from strife-torn Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held talks with President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and called for a sustained dialogue. He also urged both leaders to ensure the safety of the stranded Indians, especially Sumy, Ukraine.

Modi had talked to Putin twice earlier since the conflict began in late February and once with the Ukraine President. India has all along favoured diplomacy and dialogue to bring an end to the war which began on February 24.

Though India has refrained from criticising Russia's actions in Ukraine because of the close strategic ties between New Delhi and Moscow, it has said the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries must be respected.

In his 50-minute talks with Putin on Monday, the Prime

Minister stressed upon the safe evacuation of Indian citizens from Sumy at the earliest. The Russian President assured him of all possible cooperation in their safe evacuation.

Sumy and Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine have borne the brunt of the Russian military offensive and more than 700 Indian students were stranded in Sumy.

The Prime Minister's talks with the two leaders came at a time when India is focusing on evacuating all its citizens from the eastern part of Ukraine witness to heavy fighting.

Modi appreciated the announcement of the ceasefire and establishment of humanitarian corridors in parts of Ukraine including Sumy while talking to Putin.

The Ministry of External Affairs said later the two leaders discussed the evolving situation in Ukraine. Putin briefed Modi on the status of negotiations between the Ukrainian and Russian teams.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Shot at in Ukraine, Delhiite among 1,514 Indians returns home

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi resident Harjot Singh, who was shot at in Ukraine's capital Kyiv on February 27, was among 1,514 people airlifted by eight evacuation flights from Ukraine's neighbouring countries on Monday.

Two evacuation flights from Suceava, Romania will take off on Tuesday to bring more than 400 Indians back home. So far, more than 17,600 people have come to India by 83 flights since the Russian military offensive. Barring Kharkiv and Sumy, almost all Indians from the remaining regions of Ukraine have been evacuated.



An IAF flight carrying Minister of State for Civil Aviation VK Singh, Harjot Singh, and around 205 Indians, mainly students landed at 6.15 pm at the Hindon airbase on Monday. The flight had left from Rzeszów in Poland at 10.30 am. Singh was in Poland to facilitate the evacuation of students.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Miffed SC may order probe into fake certificate for Covid death ex gratia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed concern over fake Covid death certificates being issued by doctors for ex gratia compensation and said it might order a probe into the issue.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna also said that there should be some time limit for submission of claims for compensation. "What is worrying is the fake certificate given by doctors... It is a very serious thing," the bench observed.

"Please suggest how we can curb the issue of fake certificates being issued by the doctors. It may take away someone's real opportunity," the bench said.

Solicitor General Tushar



Mehta said that there should be an outer time limit for submitting claims. "I would urge your lordship to have some outer line for the deaths that have already occurred... This process may not be endless," Mehta said.

The Solicitor General submitted that the top court has ordered that an RT-PCR certificate was not necessary for compensation and the same can be allowed based on a doctor's certificate.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Cong rushes leaders to 4 States to prevent bids to poach MLAs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Assembly election results on Thursday, the Congress has dispatched several senior leaders to four of the five States — Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, and Manipur — to deal with situations arising out of unclear verdict or close results.

Sources in the party said the leaders have been stationed in these States to prevent defections that have hurt the party in the past, particularly in Goa and Manipur. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi held meetings to discuss these pre-emptive moves following which the leaders are expected to act swiftly for stitching up alliances and tie-ups in the event of hung Assemblies as the results trickle in.

A couple of weeks ago, in an unusual move, the Congress had even made its Goa candidates take an oath of alle-

giance in Rahul's presence.

AICC sources said the Congress wants to avert a repeat of the 2017 fiasco in Goa when the party failed to grab power despite emerging as the single largest party in the election. The Congress won 17 of 40 seats in Goa in the 2017 election but the BJP, after winning 13 seats, took power with help from smaller parties and independents.

Two years later, 15 Congress MLAs switched to the BJP, led by the Congress' leader of the Opposition, Babu Kavlekar, who was made Deputy Chief Minister by the BJP. AICC desk in-charge of Goa, Dinesh Gundu Rao, with leader of Opposition Digambar Kamat, and State Congress president Girish Chodankar, briefed Rahul over the "election scenario" and discussed strategies.

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# Repolling to be held in 6 booths in Manipur today

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Repolling will take place on March 8 in six booths in two districts of Manipur, where Assembly elections were recently held, officials said on Monday.

Voting in these polling stations in Ukhrul and Senapati were declared "to be void" following violence on March 5 during the second and final phase of the assembly polls in the state, they said.

The repoll will begin at 7 am and conclude by 4 pm in Ukhrul, Kalhang, Pen, Ngamju, Yangkhullen and Mao Marafii. An estimated 84.90 per cent turnout was registered in the second phase.

One person was killed and another suffered injuries on



March 5 after security personnel fired at a group of people for allegedly trying to snatch an EVM at Ngamju village in Senapati district, state election commission sources said.

The assembly polls will decide the electoral fate of 92 candidates, including 12 from the BJP, followed by Congress (18), National People's Party (11), Janata Dal (United) and Naga People's Front (10 each).

Counting of votes will take place on March 10.

# Govt ensured more scientific minds find enough capital for scientific discovery, says Irani



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Smriti Irani said the government has ensured cohesive and consistent engagement with institutes of higher learning so that more scientific minds, particularly women, find enough capital and mentorship support. At an event organised by FICCI, she said one of the greatest challenges is that training data that has been available thus far societally is data that positions primarily men.

"Hence, the challenge before us is that when we use

these training data subsets to feed those institutions, organizations or machines that are to predict an outcome for us we need to recognize will we end up predicting the past than predicting the future?"

"The government has comprehensively ensured there is cohesive and consistent engagement with institutes of higher learning across the country so that more and more scientific minds, particularly women, find enough capital and mentorship support for scientific discovery," Irani said.

# Over 56 per cent turnout in last phase of UP assembly elections

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Over 56 per cent turnout was recorded on Monday in 54 assembly seats, including in Varanasi, in the seventh and last phase of Uttar Pradesh polls, marking the end of the voting process spread over two months in the crucial state.

The counting of votes in Uttar Pradesh as well as in Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa will be on March 10. Voting started at 7 AM and ended at 6 PM, except in Naxal-hit Chakia (Chandauli), Robertsganj and the Duddhi (Sonbhadra) seats where it concluded at 4 PM.

The voting percentage was recorded at 56.77 per cent, according to the Election Commission. The polling percentage in the seventh phase in the 2017 Assembly elections in 2017 was 59.56 percent.

No untoward incident was reported from the state, Additional Chief Electoral Officer BDR Tiwari said.

Chandauli saw a relatively high turnout of 61.99 percent and Varanasi 58.80 percent.

Azamgarh witnessed 53.82 percent voting, Bhadohi 56.90 percent, Ghazipur 56.54 percent, Jaunpur 56.17 percent, Mau 57.02 percent, Mirzapur 54.93 percent and Sonbhadra 58.69 percent.

The final polling figure will be available on Tuesday, an official said.

The state has seen a decrease in voter turnout in the last three phases. In the previous six phases, the state recorded a turnout of 62.43 percent, 64.42 percent, 62.28 percent, 61.52 percent, 57.32 percent and 55.79 percent.

The state had recorded 61.24 percent polling in the 2017 assembly elections.

A total of 613 candidates were in the fray for the 54 seats, including those falling in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary segment Varanasi, in the final phase.

The fate of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party president Om Prakash Rajbhar and several state ministers was decided in this round, in which 2.06 crore people were eligible to vote.

# Noida Airport's own Aerocity-like facility proposed in YEIDA's Master Plan 2041

PTI ■ NOIDA

An 'Aerotropolis' with commercial and residential spaces would be developed around the Noida International Airport in Jewar on the lines of Delhi's Aerocity as part of the region's Master Plan 2041 unveiled on Monday.

An "ultra-modern city" and a sports zone with Olympics-level facilities are also proposed in the Master Plan 2041 of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).

YEIDA manages land around the Yamuna Expressway in western Uttar Pradesh.

The Master Plan 2041 would cover parts of Gautam Buddh Nagar and Bulandshahr districts surround the upcoming Greenfield Noida Airport, according to officials.

The master plan has been prepared by consultancy firm MARS Planning & Engineering Services and it was presented in the auditorium room of YEIDA to senior officials, including CEO Arun Vir Singh and Additional CEO Shailendra Bhatia.

"In the presentation of the Master Plan 2041, it was informed by the consultancy that the area around the proposed international airport would be developed as Aerotropolis," YEIDA said in a statement.

"Simultaneously, a proposal was presented for the development of an Olympic Park and Olympic Village in the Master Plan," it said.

A golf course, a central business centre, warehouse and logistics facilities have also been proposed in the master plan, the YEIDA, an undertaking of the Uttar Pradesh government said.

Besides this, industries and affordable housing projects for industrial workers would also be developed in the region around the airport while new residential sectors have also been proposed by the consultant firm, according to the statement.

"YEIDA CEO has also directed the consultant to include concepts like Zero Carbon footprint in the Master Plan so that the region could be developed as 'Smart City' project," it stated.

# Delhi Govt seeks suggestions from public over making PUCC mandatory for refueling at petrol pumps

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has sought suggestions from city residents over making Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) mandatory for refueling at petrol pumps across the capital to tackle air pollution.

The city government's environment department had come up with a draft notification on March 3 in this regard.

"To control vehicular tail pipe emissions, all the dealers of petrol/ diesel/ CNG pumps are directed to dispense/sell the petrol/ diesel/ CNG to motor vehicles only on production of valid Pollution under Control Certificate (PUC) with immediate effect," the draft

notification read.

In January this year, the Delhi government had announced that it will put a draft policy in public domain that will make a valid PUC mandatory for refueling vehicles at fuel pumps in the capital.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai had said the policy will help ensure that polluting vehicles do not ply in Delhi and residents enjoy cleaner air.

The draft notification issued on March 3 further said the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Indraprastha Gas Limited, Reliance Industries Limited

(Reliance Petroleum), other petrol/diesel/ CNG pumps/stations and Commissioner, Transport Department, Delhi will be responsible for implementing the directions in letter and spirit.

"The violation of the directions issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 or the rules made there under shall be punishable under Section 15 of the said Act which includes imprisonment to five years and / or with fine which may extend to Rs. One Lakh or with both," read the draft notification.

The notification also stated that the enforcement of pollution norms has been found to be more efficacious when targeted at petrol pumps.

# Senior HP Govt officials asked to appear before HC for not complying with order

PTI ■ SHIMLA

Senior officials of the State Government were on Monday asked to appear personally before the Himachal Pradesh High Court for failing to comply with its order of inspecting a leprosy home.

The officials include secretary (social justice and empowerment), director (health) and Shimla deputy commissioner and district welfare officer. The court directed them to appear before it on the next date of hearing on March 21 to explain why the order regarding inspection of the leprosy home at Leprosy Colony in Shimla's Phagli and

its necessary repair work was not complied with.

In its order on January 7, the court had directed Shimla DC Aditya Negi to inspect the leprosy home and ensure necessary repairing work within four weeks. During the course of hearing, the petitioner's counsel stated that Negi neither inspected the site personally, nor got the repair done.

Subsequently, a division bench of the high court comprising Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq and Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua passed the orders on Monday on a petition filed by one Neeraj Shashwat who alleged that leprosy patients were allotted a build-

# T'gana Govt presents tax free Budget for 2022-23

**Proposes total expenditure of over ₹2.56 lakh cr**

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Monday presented a tax-free budget of Rs 2.56 lakh crore for 2022-23, up from about Rs 2.31 lakh crore last year. The budget proposed an outlay of Rs 17,700 crore for the state government's flagship Dalit welfare scheme 'Dalit Bandhu'.

"For the financial year 2022-23, I am proposing a total expenditure of Rs 2,56,958.51 crores. Out of this, revenue expenditure is Rs 1,89,274.82 crores and capital expenditure is Rs.29,728.44 crore," the Minister said.

In FY 2021-22, the revenue expenditure and capital expenditure were Rs 1.69 lakh crore and Rs 29,046 crore respectively.

During his speech, Harish Rao alleged discrimination against Telangana by the Centre, saying it was creating hurdles in the path of state's progress. He said Telangana is on a high growth trajectory.

As per the Advance Estimates, Telangana continued to maintain higher growth in the GSDP in 2021-22 too at 11.2 per cent at constant prices as compared with the national GDP growth of 8.9 per cent, he said.

At current prices, GSDP growth is estimated at 19.1 per cent as compared with the estimated GDP growth of 19.4 per cent.

Thus, Telangana recovered much faster in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, he pointed out.

By 2021-22, the per capita income of the state at Rs 2,78,833 exceeded the national average of Rs 1,49,848 by 1.86 times, said Harish Rao, a nephew of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Highlighting the state government's primacy to welfare, he said the government's policy, as articulated by the Chief Minister, has been that mere growth has no meaning and even legitimacy if the poor are denied its benefits.

"In people's welfare, Telangana stands first in the country," he said.

Agriculture has been allocated Rs 24,254 crore in the budget.

# PM Modi interacts with winners of Nari Shakti Puraskar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday interacted with the winners of Nari Shakti Puraskar on the eve of International Women's Day.

Twenty-eight awards, 14 each for 2020 and 2021, will be given to 29 women in recognition of their exceptional work towards the empowerment of women, especially the vulnerable and marginalised.

The awards will be given by President Ram Nath Kovind on International Women's Day which is on March 8.

The awardees include Merchant Navy captain Radhika Menon, social entrepreneur Anita Gupta, organic farmer and tribal activist Ushaben Dineshbhai Vasava, innovator Nasira Akhter, Intel-

India head Nivruti Rai, down syndrome affected Kathak dancer Saylee Nandkishor Agavane, first woman snake rescuer Vanita Jagdeo Borade and mathematician Neena Gupta.

The Nari Shakti Puraskar is an initiative of the Women and Child Development Ministry to acknowledge the exceptional contribution made by individuals and institutions and to celebrate women as game-changers and catalysts of positive change in society.

The recipients are from fields such as entrepreneurship, agriculture, innovation, social work, education and literature, linguistics, arts and crafts, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), disability rights, merchant navy and wildlife conservation.

# Pilot averted head-on collision with another plane: Mamata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Two days after her chartered flight experienced mid-air turbulence, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said another aircraft had come in front of her plane, and it was the prompt action of the pilot that averted a head-on collision.

The Bengal government had on Saturday sought a report from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) after Banerjee's aircraft encountered turbulence, leaving her back and chest injured.

The state government also sought to know from the DGCA if approval was accorded for the route taken by Banerjee's chartered flight.

She was returning from Uttar Pradesh after winding up her campaign for the Samajwadi Party.

"Another plane, all of a sudden, came in front of my aircraft. If the situation had continued for 10 more seconds, there would have been a head-on collision. It was due to the efficiency of the pilot that I survived. The plane climbed down 6,000 feet. I suffered injuries on my back and chest. I still have pain," she told reporters in the Assembly.

Banerjee also claimed that her plane did not fall into any air pocket.

On Friday evening, a chartered flight carrying Banerjee from Varanasi to the city faced turbulence, causing the plane to rock violently.

The pilot managed to land it safely at Netaji Subhas Chandra International Airport. However, Banerjee suffered injuries caused by the steep climb-down the flight had to make to cope with the turbulence.

# TN Guv, CM extend Women's Day greetings

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi extended his greetings on the eve of International Women's day on Monday.

In his greetings to all the women of the state, he said, "On this day, we rejuvenate our commitment to respect women and womanhood and celebrate with gratitude their contributions to family, society, Nation and World in making each of these human collectives a better institution".

"In our country, women's leadership in spiritual, intellectual, social and political domains since time immemorial is a fact we are all proud of. While our Nation is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, we salute the indomitable courage and sacrifices of our women freedom fighters", the Governor said in Raj Bhavan

message. "The Nation shall ever remain grateful to her women leaders like Avvaiyaar, Veera Mangai Velu Nachiar, Jhansi Ki Rani, Dr Annie Besant and many others who suffered for India's freedom", he added.

Women's day is celebrated every year on March 8. In his message, Chief Minister M K Stalin said the rights and welfare of women will be protected and the 'Dravidian Model government' will always stand for their development. In an official release, he listed out the schemes introduced by his government for the welfare of the women, including enhancement of women's reservation in government jobs to 40 per cent, free bus travel among others.

Actor-politician Kamal Haasan also extended his greetings on the occasion.

# Chhattisgarh Govt launches 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' and gave away cheques of Rs 5,000 each to five women beneficiaries for safe motherhood at a state-level conference held here on Monday, a day before International Women's Day, an official said.

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 5000 will be given to women on the birth of second girl child, an official said. Speaking on the occasion, Baghel said women were lagging men in terms of economic participation, adding that his government had started initiatives like 'Mahila Madad' and had helped women prepare various items at gauthans.

"Now the women of Chhattisgarh will also manufacture paint and produce electricity from cow dung. It will boost the income of women

and create employment opportunities. Gauthans are being developed into rural industrial parks. On the occasion of 'Teeja-Pora', the state government has also waived loans of Rs 13 crore of Self-Help Groups and doubled their loan limit through Mahila Kosh," he said.

On the occasion, the chief minister felicitated Anganwadi workers, officials doing excellent work in the direction of women protection under 'Sakhi One Stop Center' and 'Nava Bihan Yojana'.

He also released 'Kanya Vivah Yojana' Coffee Table Book, Sakhi One Stop Center Telephone Directory, and brochures of schemes related to women empowerment.

Baghel visited the stalls put up as part of the four-day-long state-level 'Mahila Madad' organized here, and bought artifacts made up of bell metal, and played the 'turhi' (trumpet), officials said.

# Modi talks with...

From page 1

Modi welcomed the ongoing negotiations between Russia and Ukraine and expressed hope that they would lead to cessation of the conflict. He suggested that a direct conversation between President Putin and President Zelenskyy may greatly assist the ongoing peace efforts.

Modi conveyed his deep concern for the safety and security of the Indian students still remaining in Sumy. "President Putin briefed the Prime Minister about the ongoing measures related to humanitarian corridors for facilitating the evacuation of civilians including Indian students," the statement said.

Modi's telephonic conversations with his Russian and Ukrainian leadership came as Russia declared a ceasefire in

the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and three other cities of Kharkiv, Mariupol, and Sumy. The cessation of firing will enable the opening of humanitarian corridors for the citizens to be evacuated.

Modi had talked to Putin last week wherein he had discussed the evacuation of Indians from Kharkiv, which is witnessing ferocious fighting between the Russian and the Ukrainian forces.

Before his talks with Putin, Modi spoke with Zelenskyy for nearly 40 minutes and sought his support in the evacuation of the Indians now stranded in Sumy. After the talks, Zelenskyy took to Twitter to thank the prime minister for the support. "Informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Ukraine countering Russian aggression. India appreciates the assistance to its citizens

during the war and Ukraine's commitment to direct peaceful dialogue at the highest level. Grateful for the support to the Ukrainian people. #StopRussia," the Ukrainian President had tweeted.

The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement said Zelenskyy briefed the Prime Minister in detail about the conflict situation and the ongoing negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.

"The Prime Minister expressed deep concern about the ongoing conflict and resultant humanitarian crisis. The Prime Minister reiterated his call for an immediate cessation of violence and noted that India has always stood for peaceful resolution of issues and direct dialogue between the two parties.

"The Prime Minister thanked Ukrainian authorities for their facilitation in evacuating more than 20,000 Indian citizens from Ukraine. He expressed deep concern for

the safety and security of Indian students still remaining in Ukraine and emphasised the need for their quick and safe evacuation," the statement said.

The Modi-Zelenskyy talks, the second between the two in the last nine days, came on a day Russian authorities said they would start a ceasefire on Monday and open "humanitarian corridors" in key Ukrainian cities including Kyiv, Kharkiv and Sumy. Russian news agency Interfax, quoting local authorities, reported that Russia has informed the United Nations, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) about opening humanitarian corridors in Kyiv, Mariupol, Kharkiv, and Sumy.

The Indian Embassy in Ukraine on Sunday said a team from the mission was stationed in Poltava city to coordinate the safe passage of Indian students in Sumy to Western borders via Poltava.

# Miffed SC may order ...

From page 1

"This relaxation is being misused," he said. The bench sought suggestions on the issue and posted the matter for hearing on March 14. The top court had earlier directed all States Governments and Union Territories to appoint a dedicated nodal officer to coordinate with the member secretary of the State Legal Service Authority (SLSA) to facilitate payment of ex gratia compensation to family members of Covid-19 victims. The SC also directed the State Governments to give full particulars like name, address, and death certificate to the concerned SLSA, as also complete details concerning orphans, within one week from today (Friday) failing which the matter shall be viewed very seriously.

# Harjot who's shot ....

From page 1

"I am happy to inform you that we have landed at Hindon Airforce station. All 205 Indian students are back safe and sound. Harjot is under transfer to the Army Hospital (R&R). I thank the crew for taking care of us," he said in a tweet.

Talking to reporters at the airport here, the Minister said, "The Indian Embassy in Ukraine evacuated Harjot and his condition is stable." He added that Harjot will be sent to the Army Hospital (research and referral) as no one is better than Army in treating bullet wounds.

Harjot, 31, along with his two friends, boarded a cab for the western Ukrainian city of Lviv in a bid to escape Kyiv. He was shot four times.

Another student who arrived from Poland at Hindan Air Base in Gaziabad, said,

"We took shelter in a bunker. Ukrainian Army also helped a little bit. When the situation improved we reached Poland through Lviv. We got afraid as the bombing was happening there."

In a statement, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Monday, five civilian flights landed in Delhi while two reached Mumbai. "Tomorrow (Tuesday), two special civilian flights are expected to operate from Suceava, Romania, to bring more than 400 Indians back home. Eight flights with more than 1,500 Indians will operate from Ukraine's neighbouring countries to India on Monday," it said.

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri returned from Hungary on Monday along with the last batch of 6,711 stranded Indians from Budapest.

# Priyanka discusses post-poll scenario with Gehlot

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra arrived in Jaipur on Monday to discuss the post-poll scenario with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, ahead of the Assembly poll results in five states on March 10. The Congress general secretary, who was accompanied by party leader Rajeev Shukla, was received by Gehlot, state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra and others at the airport here.

Asked about speculation that the party might shift some of its leaders who would emerge victorious in the five state Assembly polls to Jaipur to prevent them from being "poached", Gandhi sought to downplay it, saying it is a matter of the future.



# 20 clinics inaugurated at Delhi Govt schools

**Clinics will focus on physical and mental well-being of students**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday inaugurated 20 health clinics at Delhi Government schools in the national Capital which will focus on the physical and mental well-being of students.

Sisodia, who also holds the portfolio of Education Minister along with Health Minister, Satyendar Jain inaugurated 20 Aam Aadmi school clinics at an event held at the Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Delhi's Moti Bagh area.

On the occasion, Sisodia highlighted the need for mental health support for students within the school premises, while Jain focused on how mental health services will impact the future of the country. Sisomdi said that this initiative was one of the biggest achievements in the field of education and the health sector. "A lot of work has been done and major developments



have taken place in the field of health and education.

This has been globally acknowledged. The Aim Adam school clinics consist of doctors and psychologists who listen to the problems of students. Having a psychologist is one of the biggest steps because it will be an addition to our happiness curriculum," he added.

Jain said that the program is carefully crafted to cater to students keeping in mind their physical and mental health needs. "It aims to provide health care by providing regular full-body health checkups by trained professionals, guid-

ance on health management by doctors, group awareness sessions on issues like stress management, and individual therapy sessions by a psychologist," said Jain.

"It not only aims to bring about a change in the overall development but works on building a stronger future by empowering students. The initiative aims to make state of the art healthcare both accessible and accountable for the students," Jain said. "We have initially started with this intervention for students, but we will think about extending these services for teachers as

well as parents in the coming future," Jain added.

According to an official, the Delhi Government is working continuously towards the development and well-being of each and every student from the grassroots level.

In continuation of these efforts, the Delhi Government has launched this innovative project with the CSR support of Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited and BSES Yamuna Power Limited. Complimenting the efforts of the Delhi Government, a senior BSES official said that they have

been playing an active role in improving the quality of life including education in Delhi under CSR initiatives 'Sparsh' and 'Suraksha'.

Continuing with the close partnership with the Delhi Government in this endeavour, BSES discoms are supporting SHCs in South, West, East and Central Delhi.

Speaking at the launch of the initiative, a BSES spokesperson said, "Covid-19 has thrown-up unprecedented challenges, not just in India, but globally.

Though the Government and the authorities are doing a lot in the fight against Covid-19, these efforts have to be supplemented by the resources of the corporate sector. Being a responsible corporate citizen, BSES discoms are augmenting the efforts of the governments to improve the quality of life in the national Capital."

"We are delighted to partner this ambitious project as it transcends education and health domains, both of which are focus areas of BSES CSR programs. Previously, BSES discom have provided 850 E-tablets for the use of Delhi Government's school students", added the spokesperson.

# Delhi Govt to launch mega campaign for urban farming

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has decided to launch a mega campaign for urban farming. A roundtable conference will be held on April 25 to discuss the future course of action and to reduce the excessive consumption of chemical products in order to improve health. The horticulture department will be the nodal department for the campaign.

Delhi's Environment Minister, Gopal Rai said that the roundtable conference will be attended by Government functionaries from Pusa Institute, research organisations and experts in the field.

"Delhi will become the first State in India to prepare ward-level environment action plan.

Delhiites will be able to reduce the excessive consumption of chemical products in their everyday life and improve health through urban farming," said Rai. Rai said that the concept of urban farming is to encourage and enable everyone in Delhi to plant

everyday fruits, vegetables and other necessities in their own homes."Delhiites who have terraces, verandahs with access to sunlight, can begin urban farming in their homes and help meet their needs on a day-to-day basis, all while contributing to improving and preserving the environment of their city," said Rai.

"This method is being used in different cities of the country, as well as the world. A discussion on how to implement these techniques throughout Delhi will take place at this conference which will be held at the Delhi Secretariat on April 25.

Commencing our urban farming mega plan, we will brainstorm its implementation in Delhi at this conference," said Rai.

"For this purpose, a primary proposal on two factors will be developed. First, with the help of the Pusa Institute we will train people throughout Delhi. We are targeting people on a ward-by-ward basis. Counting all the wards under the MCD, NDMC and the

Cannt Board there are 300 wards in Delhi," said Rai."A centralised training program will be initiated through master trainers and then they will further train the rest of the population.

Second, the whole initiative will run with the support of awareness campaigns on the lines of the winter action plan inculcating RWAs, market associations and NGOs in the prospect," Rai added.

"To train people, create awareness and make people join the urban farming revolution, we have proposed the establishment of the Delhi Environment Protection Committee," said the Environment Minister.

"We understand that once people start urban farming they'll need to procure material like seeds, bags, soil, equipment as well as training, following which we will create a panel from where the required inventory can be procured.

They'll just need to make one phone call and get all their needs fulfilled from there," said Rai.

# 750m underpass at Ashram Chowk to open on March 22

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to commuters passing through the busy Ashram crossing in South Delhi, the Public Works Department (PWD) will open a 750 metre long underpass on March 22.

"The construction work of the ongoing underpass at Ashram Chowk is now in its final stage and will be completed within 15 days. This underpass will be opened for the public from March 22," the Office of the Deputy Chief Minister said in a statement.

On Monday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the PWD portfolio, and senior department officials inspected the construction work of the underpass. Along with this, he also reviewed the construction works of the Ashram flyover and the underpass being built near Pragati Maidan.

Sisodia said that last year the construction work of the Ashram underpass had to be stopped several times due to the Covid-induced lockdown.

This has delayed the completion of the underpass but now the construction work has resumed and is in its final stage.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that this underpass would be opened for traffic from March 22 which will benefit lakhs of people daily.

Sisodia also reviewed the construction works of Ashram flyover and the underpass between Pragati Maidan to Nizamuddin and directed the concerned officials to complete the construction works expeditiously so that people can use these roads at the earliest.

"Lakhs of people use these

routes to commute daily to ITO, Ring Road, Central Secretariat, India Gate, and Central Delhi," he said.

Sisodia informed that the construction work of Ashram flyover will be completed by August and the Pragati Maidan underpass being built in collaboration with Delhi Government and Central Government will be completed by the month of May.

Ashram Chowk is an important link between Central and South Delhi and also with Faridabad. The junction connects the Mathura Road and the Ring Road (linking Lajpat Nagar-Sarai Kale Khan and the DND flyover).

Once the project is completed, it would benefit the commuters passing through the busy Ashram crossing and ease the ride towards Sarita Vihar, Badarpur and Faridabad from ITO.

According to data provided by the traffic police, around 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh vehicles cross the Ashram intersection every day during peak traffic hours.

To ease the traffic logjam at the crossing, a 750-metre-long underpass is being built on the Mathura Road, between the Nizamuddin rail bridge and the CSIR Apartments.

The foundation stone of the underpass was laid by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on December 24, 2019 and it was to be completed in a year's time.

PWD officials said the deadline was first extended to March 2021, further pushed to June 30, 2021 and then to September 2021. It was again extended to December 2020 and then to March 2022.

# Delhi to cut pollution with more CNG buses on roads

## Transport Min flags off 100 low-floor AC buses from Indraprastha depot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to reduce pollution in the national Capital, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot flagged off 100 low-floor air-conditioned 'Compressed Natural Gas' (CNG) buses and a prototype electric bus from the Indraprastha depot on Monday.

With this, the total number of buses in the public transportation fleet in Delhi has reached 7,001. The buses inducted on Monday will run from Ghumanhera Depot to various transit centres in Delhi such as the New Delhi Railway Station, Anand Vihar ISBT etc.

Prior to this, the bus fleet strength in Delhi had crossed the 6,000 mark during the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

The Delhi Government is committed towards taking the bus transport system of the city and its frequency to the highest standards to aid public mobility.

During the event, Gahlot said, "More than 30 lakh people travelled in DTC and Cluster buses every day in the month of February, which is nearly 14 per cent of the NCT population.

Our buses have become an example of safe, convenient and affordable transport! We will continue adding to this number, with 2000+ electric buses joining our fleet in the coming year.

I dedicate all these new buses to the citizens of Delhi and urge Delhiites to reduce usage of private vehicles and shift to public transport for a



pollution and congestion-free Delhi," he added.

On the eve of International Women's Day, the Minister also lauded the women conductors and Marshals in Delhi Government's bus fleet for their contribution to making Delhi's buses safer for women.

The Delhi Government had also recently relaxed height and experience criteria for female Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) licence holders for allowing more entry of women drivers into the DTC fleet.

The Delhi Government had also announced that the fee for training of women HMV drivers would be fully borne by

the Government. Gahlot said that these buses are divyang-friendly and environment-friendly and are also equipped with modern facilities like panic buttons and GPS. These buses have been introduced under the cluster scheme of the Delhi Government.

"The Delhi Government is making efforts to bring 300 electric buses in the city by April," Gahlot said.

"The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had flagged off 100 low-floor air-conditioned CNG buses and one prototype electric bus from the Rajghat depot in January," Gahlot stated.

# 2 Muslim men beaten, phones snatched

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Two Muslim men were allegedly thrashed by two men who fled after snatching their mobile phones in Gurugram. Police said that religious slurs were hurled at the victims.

The alleged incident took place near Ramada Hotel in sector 45 of the millennium city. Police said that one of the accused has been identified and a manhunt has been initiated to nab the accused. The victim has been identified Abdur Rehman, a native from Bihar

and his friend Mohammad Azam. Police said that the victims alleged that the assailants talked of feeding them pigs and forced one of them to eat some white powder. Police said that when the victims had briefly stopped near Ramada Hotel in sector 45, while going to Chakkarpur on their bike after collecting some donations for a madrasa, when the incident took place.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Sadar) Aman Yadav said after the incident a case was registered at the Sector 40 police station and the police were also able to identify one

of the accused as Amit. ACP Yadav said the police are conducting raids to nab the accused.

He said the victims alleged that as they stopped near the hotel, a man came in his car and asked them as to what were they doing there.

As they told him that they had just stopped on the way back to their home, he called some other man and the two began abusing and thrashing them, making religious slurs, Yadav said.

One of the assailants took out some white powder from his car and put it in Azam's

mouth, the ACP said, adding they fled the scene after snatching their mobile phones and the motorcycle.

The bike however, was found parked at a nearby place, the ACP said. On the victims' complaint, an FIR under sections 323 (causing hurt), 379 B (robbery), 295 A (malicious intention of outraging religious feelings), 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Sector 40 police station.

The police have launched a probe into the incident and hope to nab the culprits soon, ACP Yadav added.

# Jan Aushadhi Yojna caters to health needs of poor and middle class: Mandaviya

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said that the 'Jan Aushadhi Yojna' catering to the health needs of poor and middle class families has come as a silent revolution in the country.

Mandaviya, while addressing an event organised by the Delhi BJP on 'Jan Aushadhi Diwas', said that many youth have also got employment through this scheme as anyone who has a certificate to open a medical store can start a Jan Aushadhi Kendra as its process is quite simple.

"The Jan Aushadhi Yojna is contributing greatly in ensuring the health care needs of women. The scheme has come like a silent revolution in the country.

The scheme has become a "true friend" of poor and middle class families as they are now able to get generic medicines at lesser prices," said Mandaviya.

On the occasion, BJP Delhi unit president Adesh Gupta said Modi government has opened 8,664 Jan Aushadhi centres through which people are getting over 1,400 quality medicines at reasonable prices, which has helped the poor and needy save over Rs 13,000 crore.

# Cop arrested for beating stray dog to death in Noida

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

In a case of abject cruelty to animal, the Noida Police has arrested a Delhi Police Constable for allegedly beating a stray dog to death with a baseball bat in Noida. Police said that the horrific incident took place on Sunday night.

The accused constable has been identified as Vinod Kumar (35), who hails from Hapur district in Uttar Pradesh. Police said that the accused lives in Chhalera village in Sector 44, under the Sector 39 police station limits.

According to a senior Noida police official, the constable and his family, including his son, felt threatened by the dog as the animal would bark

at them every time they passed through the neighbourhood. "A row had broken out between the Delhi Police Constable and the local people after the incident. The police were alerted about it, and the Constable was taken into custody. A First Information Report was lodged under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section 429 and he was arrested," said the senior police official.

Purported videos of the row between Kumar and some local people also surfaced on social media in which the Constable was heard claiming that the canine had scared his son earlier in the night after which he killed it. Further legal proceedings are underway, the police added.

# Man arrested for killing wife, her 2 brothers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 43-year-old man, for allegedly killing his wife and her two brothers, following a domestic issue at his house in Northwest Delhi's Shakurpur area. The accused has been identified as Hitendra, resident of Shakurpur area. On Sunday, Hitendra had fired multiple rounds in a fit of rage after an argument broke out between him, his wife Seema (39) and in-laws Surendra (36) and Vijay (33). According to Usha Rangnani, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest district, a police control room (PCR) call was received regarding the firing incident near Yadav market, Shakurpur area around 11.25 PM on Sunday, following which Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched for the spot. "When police team reached the spot

where they found Seema, Surendra, Vijay and Babita (33), also wife of Vijay, with gunshot wounds. Police team took the victims, to the hospital, where Seema, Surendra and Vijay were declared brought dead by the doctors while Babita is still undergoing treatment," said the DCP.

"During initial investigation, it was revealed that Seema's family members had come to speak with Hitendra about a domestic issue at his house, following which there was a quarrel between Hitendra and his in-laws. Hirendra shot at his two brothers-in-law, wife and sister-in-law," said the DCP.

"An FIR under Section 302 (murder) was registered at Subhash Nagar police station and the accused was arrested," said the DCP adding that the police team has also recovered a licensed pistol, used in commission of crime from his possession.

## PIC TALK



In view of International Women's Day on March 8, the Delhi Police Commissioner, Rakesh Asthana and Anu Asthana, president, PFWS flagged-off 'Ladli Run' at JawaharLal Nehru Stadium, in which more than 7,500 schoolgirls from 38 schools of Delhi took part. The CP administered the 'Meri Beti Mera Abirmaan' oath

THE PIONEER/PHOTO



# Rajnath: Indo-Pacific reflects ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen the Quad combine and ties with the US in the Indo-Pacific region, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said here the idea of Indo-Pacific reflects the sentiment of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (the world is one family).

He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s address at the Shangri La Dialogue in Singapore in 2018 where he had said “The Indo-Pacific stands for a free, open, inclusive region, which embraces all in a common pursuit of progress and prosperity.

It includes all nations in this geography as also others beyond who have a stake in it.”

This sentiment, Rajnath said, is best exemplified by the contribution of the medical profession that has universally been considered noble. He made these observations while virtually inaugurating the four-day Indo-Pacific Military

Health Exchange (IPMHE) conference co-hosted by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM).

Rajnath described medical service as an important pillar for any military, saying in addition to their own combat-related duties, they are the most valuable second responders in times of natural and man-made calamities and crises and are in a perpetual state of readiness.

He lauded the AFMS for promoting and delivering preventive, curative, rehabilitative medical care to the serving soldier and their families and the veterans with utmost professionalism.

The theme of the conference is ‘Military Healthcare in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) World’. The conference

aims to enhance cooperation and jointmanship in military medicine. It will cover many important topics including operational medical care, tropical medicine, field

surgery, field anaesthesia, aviation and marine medicine emergencies. The conference is attended by more than 600 Indian and foreign delegates from over 38 countries.

A delegation of 20 members from the organising committee of the USINDOPACOM is in New Delhi to co-host the conference. The delegates and speakers will interact and share experiences over the four days on 110 topics.

The defence minister commended the significant role played by AFMS and USINDOPACOM in addressing the challenges posed by COVID-19.

He said, despite limitations such as short warning period, pressure on existing infrastructure and disparity in resources, the last two years have brought out the very best amongst the medical fraternity, civil society volunteer groups and governments which went out of the way to help those in need during pandemic. Rajnath praised meaningful impact of IPMHE in field of military medicine

## Lanka-India naval exercise starts in Visakhapatnam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Underlining the deep Defence ties with Sri Lanka, the ninth Edition of India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise SLINEX (Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise) commenced on Monday in Visakhapatnam. The four-day exercise is being conducted in two stages including the harbour phase at Visakhapatnam on Monday and Tuesday followed by sea phase for the next two days in the Bay of Bengal.

Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by SLNS Sayurala, an advanced offshore patrol vessel and the Indian Navy by INS Kirch, a guided missile

corvette. Other participants from the Indian Navy include INS Jyoti, a fleet support tanker, advanced light helicopter, Seaking and Chetak helicopters and Dornier maritime patrol aircraft. The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Trincomalee in October 2020, navy officials said here on Monday.

The SLINEX aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies. The harbour phase includes professional, cultural, sporting and social exchanges, they said. Exercises during Sea Phase will include

surface and anti-air weapon firing exercises, seamanship evolutions, aviation operations including cross deck flying, advanced tactical manoeuvres and special forces operations at sea. These will further enhance the high degree of inter-operability already existing between the two navies.

The drill exemplifies the deep maritime engagement between India and Sri Lanka and has grown in scope over the years to strengthen mutual cooperation, in consonance with India’s policy of ‘Neighbourhood First’ and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)’.

administrators. He appreciated fact that IPMHE is addressing contemporary, real-time and relevant issues pertaining

to military medicine, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, infectious diseases, medical logistics and related issues.

## Another fratricide in BSF; two die in Murshidabad incident

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after five men of the BSF were killed in a fratricidal incident at a base in Amritsar along the Pakistan frontier, a paramilitary jawan on Monday allegedly shot himself after killing a colleague at a camp in West Bengal’s Murshidabad along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

The incident took place at the Kakmarichar Border Security Force (BSF) camp along the India-Bangladesh front. It falls under the paramilitary force’s Berhampore sector, which is about 230 km from the State capital Kolkata.

“In an unfortunate incident, at around 0645 hrs, Head Constable Johnson Toppo of the 117th battalion shot head Constable H G Shekharan, and subsequently shot himself with his service rifle at border post Kakmarichar under Sagapara police station in Murshidabad,” a BSF spokesperson said.

Soon after the incident, the duo was taken to a hospital in Sagapara where doctors declared them “brought dead,” he said.

Officials said the incident took place after they returned to their post after finishing their night duty at the border.

The spokesperson said both of them were supposed to visit the local Raninagar police station at 10 am on Monday for recording of statements in connection with a case registered in November last year.

The officials said some issue linked to this police case

purportedly led the two troopers into a confrontation, following which Toppo allegedly fired at Shekharan. The police case pertains to the BSF reportedly detaining a farmer at the Bangladesh border last year.

A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the facts and a case has been registered with the local police, the spokesperson said.

Inspector General of South Bengal Frontier Headquarters, Atul Fuljele and DIG of Behrampur Sector, Karni Singh Shekhawat, have also reached the spot, he said.

The incident comes a day after a BSF jawan allegedly opened fire indiscriminately at a camp in Amritsar, Punjab, leaving four of his colleagues dead and another critically injured, before himself falling to a bullet, officials said.

According to official data, 19 BSF troopers have been killed till now in fratricide incidents since 2017.

A December 2021 data shared by the Government in Parliament, a total of 25 fratricide incidents have taken place in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) during 2019-2021.

The highest number of these incidents took place in the CRPF (11) followed by the BSF (nine). The data did not reveal the number of deaths that took place in these incidents. The other paramilitary forces where such incidents took place include the CISF, ITBP, and the SSB apart from the Assam Rifles.

## Jan aushadhi kendras helped people save money: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Highlighting the Centre’s steps in the health sector for the benefit of the poor and the middle class, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Government controlled the price of over 800 medicines required for treating diseases such as cancer and tuberculosis, while the “jan aushadhi kendras” have helped people save money.

Modi also interacted with “Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana” beneficiaries via video-conferencing on the occasion of “Jan Aushadhi Diwas” and took feedback from them about the scheme. The Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.

PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at cheaper prices but are equivalent to expensive branded drugs in quality and efficacy. Modi said

while people of other countries had to pay thousands for a vaccine dose, the Government made efforts from day one to ensure that people do not have to pay for vaccines against COVID-19 and the free vaccination drive is run successfully.

“Our government has spent over Rs 30,000 crore on this, so that the people of the country remain healthy,” he said.

Modi asserted that while the jan aushadhi kendras are centres for medicines for the body, they are also centres to provide relief to people as they help them save money.

He said the jan aushadhi kendras have reduced the anxiety of people over the cost of medicines.

“If we look at the figures of this fiscal, then medicines worth over Rs 800 crore have been sold from the jan aushadhi kendras. This means that this year itself, the poor and the middle class were able to save about Rs 5,000 crore...Till now, about Rs 13,000 crore have been saved,” Modi said.

## ED arrests bizman in ₹54 cr bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested an accused, Subhash Sharma under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a bank fraud case worth Rs 54 crore.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by Chhattisgarh State Police and CBI against Subhash Sharma and others for fraudulently obtaining loans from various banks through companies owned and controlled by him. The total Proceeds of Crime (POC) involved in the above FIRs is around Rs. 54 crore.

The ED probe revealed that during the period from December, 2009 to December, 2014, the loans obtained fraud-

ulently by companies owned and controlled by Sharma were diverted and used for investment in non-intended businesses and part of the Proceeds of Crime was also utilized to purchase immovable properties in the name of shell entities, the ED said in a statement.

“Most of the companies of Subhash Sharma did not have any business activities and were created only for the purpose of transfer/routing of loan funds receivedb in his companies to other companies,” it said.

Two provisional attachment orders attaching movable and immovable properties worth Rs 39.68 crore derived out of the Proceeds of Crime have been issued, it said. The Special Judge, PMLA Court, Raipur, Chhattisgarh has granted 10-day ED custody of Sharma.



## 4 key officials of Disc Assets Group held in money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four directors/key managerial persons of Disc Assets Group in a money laundering case for defrauding the public of over Rs 1,100 crore in a ‘Collective Investment Scheme’. The ED had initiated investigation under PMLA based on FIR registered by Economic Offences Wing of Tamil Nadu Police.

The ED probe revealed that Disc Assets Lead India Limited and others collected money amounting to over Rs 1,100 crore from gullible public promising land/money with higher interest in return.

“The money thus collected was diverted in guise of investment in subsidiaries, as pay-

ment of royalty to directors/family members of directors of company, as dividends and as diversion to unrelated entities,” the ED said in a statement. The ED has also attached 1,081 properties worth Rs 207 crore of the group entities. The accused persons had filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before Supreme Court against the order of the Madras High Court dismissing their bail petition. The SLP by accused persons was dismissed by apex court on February 25.

Following SC order dismissing SLP, the ED arrested four persons on March 5 based on non-bailable warrants issued by Principal Special Judge for CBI Cases, Chennai that remanded four arrested accused persons to judicial custody.

## Ex-NSE boss Ramkrishna sent to 7-day CBI custody

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI Special Court on Monday sent former Managing Director of National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chitra Ramkrishna to seven-day CBI custody in the NSE co-location scam case. In the order, Special Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal said her custodial interrogation was required for fair and proper investigations.

“It appears that the custodial interrogation of the above accused would be required to find out the detailed modus operandi adopted by her in conspiracy with the other co-accused persons involved in the present case including co-accused Anand Subramanian. The present case may be of unimaginable magnitude,” the court said.

The Special Court further said that her custodial interrogation would also be required for confronting her with Subramanian, who is already in CBI custody, in order to find out the entire ramifications of the transactions in question, to dig out the voluminous digital evidence pertaining and to find out the role of other players in this case of swindling the institutional investors, foreign institutional investors and honest retail investors.

“Therefore, police custody remand of this accused is required for fair and proper investigations, as there are more than reasonable and substantial grounds for doing so.. In these peculiar facts and circumstances, in the interest of justice and for fair investigations, accused Chitra Ramkrishna is remanded to police custody till March 14, 2022.

She be produced before the Court on March 14, 2022,” the judge said. CBI had



CBI had sought 14 days of custodial interrogation arguing that Ramkrishna was totally non-cooperative and evasive. The CBI arrested the accused on Sunday after her anticipatory bail application was dismissed by the court on Saturday.

In its application before the court on Monday, the CBI said that the electronic devices recovered are being analyzed and would be used for conducting further examination of Ramkrishna.

The agency said she was evasive and has continuously misguided the Investigation Officer and gave wrong statements. It said her custodial interrogation was needed to unearth the criminal conspiracy and the role of other NSE officials and brokers in the company.

The CBI was represented by its Additional Legal Advisor V K Sharma and Senior Public Prosecutor V K Pathak, while senior advocate Trideep Pais appeared for the accused.

It further submitted that the material already collected in the case shows that Ramkrishna in conspiracy with Subramanian had improperly hired him by coercing the HR department of NSE.

Investigation has revealed that during the period 2013-16 after accused Chitra Ramkrishna took over as MD & CEO of NSE, OPG Securities Pvt Ltd was allowed to connect to secondary serv-

er of the COLO-TBT Dissemination server for over 300 trading days causing it undue gain, CBI told the Court. It is further submitted that OPG Securities Pvt Ltd was warned repeatedly in 2012 that accessing the secondary server is a violation of the rules/guidelines of the NSE, it said.

NSE however stopped issuing such warnings to OPG Securities without any justifiable reasons during 2013 when Ramkrishna was MD & CEO of NSE.

Investigation has also revealed that Muralidharan Natarajan, the CTO of NSETECH (a subsidiary of NSE), was responsible for putting in place the co-location architecture at NSE.

He was reporting to Ramkrishna, the CBI told the court. The investigation has also revealed that Ramkrishna facilitated providing confidential trading data to Infotech Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.

And to Ajay Shah, knowing fully well that Infotech Financial Services Pvt. Ltd was providing algorithmic software to brokers in NSE and that there was a conflict of interest since one of the directors of M/s Infotech Financial Services Pvt, Ltd, it said.

In the co-location facility offered by the NSE, brokers could place their servers within the stock exchange premises giving them faster access to the markets.

CBI said that some brokers in connivance with insiders abused the algorithm and the co-location facility to make windfall profits.

The remand application was opposed by Pais, who said that she has already joined the investigation on a number of dates with CBI, in response to notices and she has been confronted with co-accused Subramanian.



The ECI hosted a virtual International Election Visitors Programme 2022 for Election Management Bodies from nearly 32 countries and four international organisations in New Delhi on Monday.

PTI Photo

## ICMR invites pharma firms to develop dengue vaccine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Inching closer towards having a vaccine for dengue—a mosquito-borne viral disease—the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited domestic pharma companies to collaborate on development of country’s first vaccine for dengue.

Pharmaceutical companies and vaccine manufacturers—who have developed potential vaccine candidates against dengue and have successfully completed their Phase I and Phase II clinical trials—can submit their expressions of Interest by March 11, 2022, said a statement from the ICMR.

The World Health Organisation identified dengue as one of top ten global health threats in 2019. It noted that Asia accounts for 70 per cent of total dengue cases reported from 129 countries. According to National Centre for Vector-Borne

Diseases Control data, India reported 1,23,106 dengue cases and 90 deaths in 2021 (till October). “As of now, there is no specific treatment for severe dengue. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop effective vaccines against it,” ICMR added.

The ICMR has been mandated to address growing demands of scientific advances in biomedical research and find practical solutions to health problems, according to Samiran Panda, Additional Director General of ICMR.

ICMR will provide all technical support for companies conducting Phase III trials. The collaboration will be on a royalty-basis for a fixed-term contract. “Under this EoI, ICMR offers institutional infrastructure for undertaking further R&D activities and vaccine clinical trial for evaluation of efficacy along with safety and immunogenicity as per regulatory requirement,” the ICMR document said.

## Induction of women in NDA major decision, need time to study impact: Centre tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that induction of women cadets in National Defence Academy (NDA) has been a major policy decision and it needs at least three months for deliberating implications in the long term for induction and deployment of ex-NDA women cadets in the Indian Armed Forces.

It said that in respect of the number of women to be inducted for “NDA-II 2021” and “NDA-I 2022,” it is submitted that each course

at NDA has 370 vacancies for the three services out of which 208 will get commissioned in the Indian Army, 120 cadets will get commissioned in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and 42 will get commissioned in the Indian Navy.

“The induction of woman cadets in NDA has been a

major policy decision. The respondents need sufficient time for deliberating implications in the long term for induction and deployment of ex-NDA women cadets in the Indian Armed Forces. It is, therefore, submitted that the respondents require at least three months additional time towards this,” the Centre said in its affidavit.

The affidavit was filed pursuant to the top court’s direction on a plea filed by advocate Kush Kalra about the data of women who have appeared for NDA-2021 examination and number of women inducted. The Centre said, “It is submitted that a total of 5,75,854 candidates applied for the exam and 3,57,197 candidates took the examination. A total of 8009 candidates, including 1002 women candidates passed the NDA write examination held during November 2021. The Service Selection Board

(SSB) is scheduled with effect from March-April 2022”. Justifying the number of women cadets for all three forces, the

Centre said that in respect of the Army, the ratio is to ensure that there is a younger profile and mobility of officer cadre, borne out of its operational role and tasks in difficult areas. “The total vacancies planned for the Indian Army through NDA are

416 every year that is 208 per course. These vacancies are planned for all arms and services of the Indian Army. Officers commissioned through NDA have a major component of combat Arms and Women officers (WO) are not being inducted in combat arms”, the affidavit said. The Centre said that average intake in the last four years of women officers in eight arms and services has been up to 15 per cent of the total cadre strength.



fication for the biennial elections will be issued on March 14 and the polls will be held on March 31.

As per established practice, the counting will be held on the day of polling from 5 pm onwards.

The Rajya Sabha nominations from Punjab will depend on the performance of parties in the state in the February 20 assembly polls. There has been no vacancy in the past five years during the Congress government in the state.

While five seats are falling vacant in Punjab, three are falling vacant in Kerala, two in Assam and one each in HP, Nagaland and Tripura.

The EC has directed the chief secretaries of the five states depute a senior officer to ensure that the instructions regarding coronavirus disease (Covid-19) containment measures are complied with while making arrangements for conducting the elections.



# Guv assaulted by TMC MLAs: Adhikari Mamata denies charges

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari on Monday alleged that State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was “physically assaulted” inside the State Assembly by two Ministers and a group of Trinamool Congress legislators at the instance of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The Chief Minister however immediately denied the charges saying it were the BJP legislators — and the not their TMC counterparts — who blockaded the Governor and raised continuous slogan inside the House so as to stop from reading out his speech. The Governor who was to deliver the inaugural speech of the Budget session the House left the House in a huff after reading only the concluding part of his speech. “Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was physically assaulted and humiliated by TMC MLAs and two women

ministers Chandrima Bhattacharya and Dr Shashi Panja ... all this was orchestrated at the instance of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ... I do not know whether the Governor would concede this outside but what happened inside the House everybody saw it very carefully... we'll meet Governor,” Adhikari said moments before the BJP MLAs led by him marched to the Raj Bhavan to register their protest. “What happened in the House today had never happened before ... the TMC goons who looted votes during the elections did not even spare the Governor and assaulted him inside the House ... he tried to leave the Assembly five times but was prevented from doing so,” Adhikari said adding Bengal was the perfect case for Article 356 (President's Rule). “I think Bengal is the perfect case for Article 356 ... the Governor is the sole authority to take a decision on this and recommend whatever he thinks to the Centre ... We will meet



him and present our views ... He should take appropriate action against it,” the former Bengal Minister who left the TMC to join the BJP just before the last year's Assembly elections said. Saying that the situation in Bengal was quite grim as “no democratic institution is being allowed to function ... everywhere the Opposition voice is being suppressed ... from North Bengal to South Bengal,” he said dropping faint hints of what his party might try to retain its support base in the

northern parts of the State. He attacked the State Government saying “nothing was stated in the Budget speech about the present circumstances ... no mention was made of the electoral malpractices, criminalisation and oppression of the opposition,” adding “If this continues then in the coming days the general disgruntlement may give rise to divisive and separatist forces ... then some people may make demand for separate states or things like that.” Things started after the

BJP MLAs started raising slogans in the House against the alleged rigging in the recently concluded civic elections in 108 boards in which the TMC won almost 90 percent of seats. After some time the TMC legislators responded by giving matching slogans. As the Governor tried to stop both the sides but failed he read out the initial and closing lines of his speech and left at the request of the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister soon hit back saying “those who cannot even win elections in their wards are today talking big ... they are trying to create disturbance in functioning of the Government ... the TMC MLAs did nothing ... it was the BJP MLAs who raised slogans and stalled the proceedings ... they thought that the Budget Session could be spoilt by stopping the Governor from giving his speech ... but these people do not know that the Budget is introduced only after the Governor gives his assent... whatever happened today was unprecedented and unfortunate.” Later the Chief Minister met the Governor personally at Raj Bhavan.

# Karhal was easy, so why whole SP family campaigned: Baghel

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Union Minister of State for Law Prof SP Singh Baghel says that he has made Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav realise his status in the Karhal Assembly elections. Akhilesh, who had announced to take the certificate of victory after nomination, had to camp in Karhal. Not only this, apart from SP's patron Mulayam Singh Yadav, the entire family had to enter the election fray. This is a big deal. He said that the entire society has been benefited by the schemes of the Central and State Governments. Housing for the poor, free ration twice for the poor after the corona period, vaccination of crores of people of the state to protect them from corona, special schemes for women are the achievements of the government. BJP is sure to get their benefit in this election. Baghel said that people know very well who can work for their inter-



est in the state. In the context of Karhal assembly elections, he said that the party's order was that I have to contest from there. By fighting the elections with all my might, I have shown them that their victory is not certain from there. He explained to the people and they understood that the family has been fooling them for so long. If the election of Karhal was easy for Akhilesh Yadav then why did he continue to camp there. Why did he

field his aged father Mulayam Singh Yadav? Apart from this, why did Mulayam Singh Yadav not go to campaign in other assembly constituencies. Every member of Akhilesh Yadav family stood firm to contest elections in Karhal, it is a big deal. Regarding the election results of the state, he said that every child of the state is saying that after March 10, the Bharatiya Janata Party government is sure to be formed in the State.

# ‘From 2024, TMC would be contender in Kerala politics’

PNS ■ KOCHI

Trinamool Congress would be a key player in Kerala politics hereafter, according to Manoj Shankaranellur, State president of the party. “Our battle cry for the 2024 Lok Sabha election would be Call Deedi and Save India, reminiscent of the famous slogan of 1980 Lok Sabha polls when the whole country echoed with Call Indira, Save India,” Manoj told The Pioneer on Monday. He said that a decision regarding the alliance formation and other details would be decided by party founder Mamata Banerjee in days to come. “We have formed eight district committees and are finalising the process of forming committees in the remaining six districts. From 2024, Trinamool Congress would be a strong contender in Kerala politics,” he said.

tion drives, the ordinary workers and those who joined the Hindutva party including former bureaucrats and judges are disappointed with the party. You will see many eminent persons who cast their lots with the BJP during the last assembly election joining the Trinamool Congress in the coming days,” said Manoj. Mohammed Manelil, general secretary of the party said though he has not seen Mamata Banerjee in person, he was confident that she is the future leader of the country. “Her life story is full of struggles and sacrifices. A woman who braved many attempts on her life by the CPI(M) and came up in life without any godfathers is the true leader. The Congress is a house divided and weakened because of its arrogance,” said Mohammed, himself an active Congress leader in Ernakulam zone.

Manoj said the possibilities of many senior leaders from the Congress joining the Trinamool Congress in Kerala could not be ruled out. “There are no surprise elements in it. It is bound to happen. The Congress which should have led the agitations against the CPI(M)-led LDF Government over the anti-people policies, has become silent and inactive. Their agitations lack power and has degenerated into rituals,” said Manoj. He disclosed the reasons behind his confidence over Trinamool Congress emerging as an alternative rallying point in Kerala politics. “Though there are many all India parties functioning in the State, there is only one leader who is acceptable to the people of the State and it is Mamata Deedi,” he said.

According to Mohammed, people join TMC only because of the charisma of Deedi. Once the party completes the constitution of the 14 district committees, the first State level congregation would be held either at Kochi or Thiruvananthapuram. “We hope Deedi would grace the occasion,” said Mohammed.

# BBMB issue: Haryana CM Khattar writes to Union home minister

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday said he has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the recent change in rules for the selection of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) members. Speaking in the state assembly, Khattar also said that he will speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue when he meets him. “When the decision was taken, I wrote to Union home minister (Amit Shah) that Haryana has an objection and even Punjab is objecting,” Khattar told the assembly. Khattar said the state will present its stand strongly. “I will also tell MPs from the

state to take up the issue (with Centre),” he said while replying to the debate on the governor's address during the ongoing budget session of the state assembly. The BBMB, which is a statutory body under the Punjab Reorganisation Act-1966 and manages the water resources of Sutlej and Beas, has a whole-time chairman and two members of irrigation and power. According to convention, the member (power) is always from Punjab and the member (irrigation) is from Haryana. But now, the change in rules for selection allows anyone to apply for these posts and several political leaders in Punjab and opposition leaders from Haryana are opposing the move.

## अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

हरियाणा सरकार

75 आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

“ अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर हमारी अदम्य नारी शक्ति को नमन। भारत को देश की महिलाओं की उपलब्धियों पर गर्व है। विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में महिला सशक्तिकरण को आगे बढ़ाने की दिशा में काम करने का अवसर मिलना हमारी सरकार के लिए सम्मान की बात है। ”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

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PAPER WITH PASSION

# Different strokes

Apart from Ukraine, Indian medical students in other nations are also facing a serious dilemma

It is not just the future of 20,000-odd Indian medical students from Ukraine that is at stake. They had to be brought back to India because of the Russian invasion that made their life insecure. There are thousands more such medical students from countries like China and a few Far East countries who are in the same boat, battling the same storm. In their case, they came back to India in 2020 just as the global lockdown was coming into force and have not been able to return to date. Of the 23,000 students enrolled in Chinese universities at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak, 18,000 were medical students. The pandemic restrictions have been lifted in most Asian countries as of date, but not in China. The Chinese Government, which banned return visas for international students, is unable to say when its borders will reopen to foreign students. The Indian embassy in Beijing has sought clarifications from the Government but in vain. Curiously, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who visited China recently, announced that "China will arrange for Pakistani students to return to China". Mongolia and Singapore have received similar assurances. Sri Lanka too has requested China to allow its medical students to return. Some Chinese universities are conducting online classes, but the students' worry is they do not have any practical experience. Practical training is indispensable in medical education. If they continue to attend only online classes, they will no longer be able to acquire clinical skills. Even online classes have stopped since last year for many students.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) last week issued a notice cautioning students about applying to Chinese universities, given the visa ban. It also said it does not recognise or approve medical courses done only by online mode. Then what happens to the students who are unable to return to China? Seeing the Commission trying to make some arrangements for the students from Ukraine, the students from Chinese universities are also writing to the Union Health Ministry and the Commission about their plight. They certainly have a case. They have been home since 2020 with no alternative in sight while the Government has already taken up the case of the students from Ukraine. Some of the final year students from China are trying to get practical experience by unofficially working in private clinics. But that does not help them get their degrees or NMC registration in India. Arranging for the 40,000-odd students in Indian medical colleges is impossible; that is nearly half the total seats available. The final-year students cannot do internships in India, even though the NMC has allowed it now because they have to first pass the eligibility exam, which is too difficult for most to clear. Forced to go abroad because of limited seats and expensive education in India, these students now face a dark future unless the Government takes the initiative to find them a reprieve.



Labourers work at a brick kiln, on the eve of International Women's Day, on the outskirts of Nadia

## Good on paper

Kerala CPI(M) is rooting for investment but entrepreneurs are tired of trade unionism

The resolution introduced by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the just-concluded CPI(M) State conference, which was adopted unanimously, marks a volte-face in the party's stance vis-a-vis economic and social development. The CPI(M), which staged pan-India strikes in the 1980s alleging computerisation would lead to job losses, was India's first political outfit to adopt computers as a part of life. The resolution calls for "maximum private investment" in all spheres of economic activity. The comrades, known for their resistance to allow private universities to set up shop, have called for private-public partnership in opening up the higher education sector in Kerala. The CPI(M) having seen the writing on the wall is getting ready to venture into uncharted waters, a hitherto unfamiliar terrain for the party. Vijayan's formula for Kerala's economic development also includes improving the ease of doing business and converting all public sector centres into profit centres. He also called for modernisation of traditional industries like coir, cashew nuts and rubber. The recommendations are music to the ears. The only jarring note was that while Vijayan is extolling the virtues of his

proposals, entrepreneurs are shutting down shop and leaving the State. Even as the party's grand State conference was held in Ernakulam, two young entrepreneurs were forced to shut down their businesses by militant trade unions. Both lost crores of rupees of investments as the trade unions declared that the managements do not have the right to appoint persons of their choice in the enterprises. Though the party bosses scoff at such reports, claiming these are isolated incidents, the exodus of entrepreneurs from the State has been happening on a regular basis. Sabu Jacob, who owns KiteX Ltd in Ernakulam, had to run for his life and shift his venture to Telangana to escape trade union activists. The National Crime Records Bureau statistics for 2020 show that Kerala is the crime capital of India. Though Vijayan's proposals are a refreshing change from the sterile economic ideology of the CPI(M), the question being asked is whether they would be able to get the trust of investors and rein in trade union bosses. Last heard, the CPI(M) is leading a two-day country-wide general strike on March 28 and 29 against the Centre's move to attract investment and dilute its stake in crucial insurance and financial sector companies.

# Why men are more equal than women

Several changes may have taken place in the lives of Indian women but gendered realities continue to reflect in their status in a family every day

The iconic utterance by French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr more than 150 years ago, "The more things change, the more they remain the same", accurately sums up the current situation of women in India—a fact ratified by a Pew Research Center report last week, which focuses on social and demographic empirical research globally. As we celebrate Women's Day, the report's findings assume a stark significance as they suggest that ostensibly several changes may have taken place in the lives of Indian women but gendered realities continue to reflect the *status quo*. Predicated on face-to-face interviews of 29,999 adults aged 18 years and above, the survey was conducted between November 2019 and March 2020 in 17 languages. The respondents were selected to cover all religious groups and the data was weighed to align with the demographic benchmarks for the adult Indian population. Widely publicised as the Pew Center's most comprehensive and in-depth assessment of public opinion in India, the report's analysis of perceptions highlights the persistence of patriarchy in both work-related and domestic settings in the country.

The most obvious contradiction emerging from the report is that universally all adults, including men, averred that it is important for women to enjoy the same rights as men, and as many as eight out of 10 respondents stated that ensuring this equality is 'very important'. Paradoxically, however, 87 per cent of the total respondents and, surprisingly, 80 per cent of the college-educated among them, also completely or mostly agreed with the premise that "a wife must always obey her husband". What is even more noteworthy is that 61 per cent of female respondents concurred with the notion. This trend of vocally supporting an overall egalitarian attitude towards gender equality but adhering to traditional gender roles in lived realities is seen in other spheres, too. For instance, most of the respondents asserted that both men and women should share family



responsibilities but 62 per cent opined that child care is a woman's domain, and 34 per cent felt that it was her exclusive responsibility. Similarly, 43 per cent of the adults said that only men should be breadwinners, implying that women ought to confine themselves to home. Compared to global trends, it was found that 40 per cent of Indians supported this dynamic of family life as compared with a corresponding global median of 23 per cent, indicating that Indians are likely to harbour more conservative gender notions than other peoples.

The most glaring example of patriarchal attitudes is reflected in the suggestion made by an overwhelming majority of the interviewees, at 94 per cent, that a family must have at least one son. The survey documents that four out of 10 Indians find it "completely or somewhat acceptable" to use modern medical methods to "balance the number of girls and boys". This is absolutely in convergence with the widely prevalent custom of son preference in Indian households to the extent that it often leads to sex-selective abortions.

The issue of son preference has also been examined in detail by the India Human

“THE TREND OF VOCALLY SUPPORTING AN EGALITARIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS GENDERS BUT ADHERING TO TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES IN LIVED REALITIES IS SEEN IN SEVERAL SPHERES, INDICATING THAT INDIANS ARE LIKELY TO HARBOUR MORE CONSERVATIVE GENDER NOTIONS THAN OTHER PEOPLES

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POSITIVE CHANGE FOR, THROUGH WOMEN

Sir — To quote Shannon L Alder, "Every woman that finally figured out her worth, has picked up her suitcases of pride and boarded a flight to freedom, which landed in the valley of change." The journey of a woman is much more than what it appears to be. With the birth of a girl child, she makes the members of her family learn the process of detachment. Though the parents very well know that they have to raise, educate, empower and then marry her off to somebody else, yet they nourish her with all their love and affection.

It is imperative for people worldwide to understand and revere how much a woman contributes to society, from home-building to nation-building. Talk of mothers, sports, CEOs, ministries, doctors, and so on, women have given their best and proved that when given the opportunity, they thrive as much as they can and the world witnesses unprecedented episodes of success. The International Women's Day, March 8, this year will be celebrated with the theme 'Break The Bias' in an attempt for a diverse, equitable and inclusive world. Independence, self-reliance and belief in themselves make women achieve great heights. Happy Women's Day!

Anushka Jaiswal | Ujjain

### WAR DOES NOBODY ANY GOOD

Sir — The article 'Ukrainian Conundrum' carries an excellent analysis. The Russian invasion has not only devastated Ukraine and its people but also engulfed entire Europe in turmoil. I feel that Ukraine President Zelenskiy failed to do the SWOT analysis before plunging into war. He failed to assess his military and economic strength, evaluate his weaknesses in air defence, arsenal and realistic nuclear capability, missed opportunities to harness oil and mineral wealth and perceive threats on its borders. After 10 days of war, Zelenskiy must have realised that his country is only a battle ground for Russia and the US, Europe through Nato. The US, Europe and Russia must

## Need to follow Constitution



Article 1 of our Constitution states: "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States." Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar said it worked as a federal Constitution under normal conditions and as unitary during war or crisis. However, the current ruling regime wants the Opposition-ruled States to implicitly toe its line and express no dissent to their dictats. Sangh politicians or *pracharaks* are sent to the States to occupy the Raj Bhavans to torment the

realise that the Indian and African continents are feeding these EU and Nato countries. If these countries disrupt themselves and the world, they are sure to run into ruin. The Corona pandemic has made it imperative for developing countries to grow self-reliant as India has become self-dependent in food grain, IT, defence, fuel, space, nuclear and solar energy. India has been criticised for abstaining from condemning Russia over war in the UNGA and UNSC. May I ask whether condemning Russia would have ended the war?

Vinod Johri | New Delhi

### PUT SYSTEMS IN PLACE FOR OUTLANDERS

Sir — The Ukraine crisis teaches us a lesson with respect to students going overseas and facing unexpected crises. The only solace is that our Government is succeeding in evacuating most of them at a considerable expense. The students and their parents had to go through psychological torture and uncertainty till they were embraced by their near and

Governments there. The Centre legislates on matters that form part of the State List in the Constitution without discussion with the federal States, and so on.

People in the country are fighting back to re-establish the doctrinal formulation that "the general and regional Governments are each within a sphere of co-ordinate and independent; and not subordinate to each other". The results of recent elections in Kerala, Bengal and Tamil Nadu, read with that in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Telangana earlier, and the massive victories of the regional parties in local body elections in Odisha, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra show that a silent change in Indian politics is taking place. A shift in mood, though gradual, in favour of regional parties, is noticeable now. The results in five States will set the trajectory of the course of events in the country.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

dear ones. In future, the colleges where the students study should give an undertaking that it shall be their responsibility to ensure that the students are safely sent back in the event of such a crisis. The host Government should set aside a corpus fund which would be used during emergency times of this nature. A refundable safety deposit may be collected from the students along with the fees for such exigencies or perhaps some sort of insurance cover may be provided for their safe return. This arrangement should be part of the MoU between colleges and students. These situations may be rare, but it is better to put systems in place. The same analogy should apply to foreign employees and tourists. The bottom line is that no foreigner should be left in the lurch and asked to fend for her/himself.

D Nagarjuna | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



ANUPMA MEHTA

respondents explicitly saying that "when there are not enough jobs, men should have more rights to get the jobs than women". In this context, Indians had much more traditional views than their counterparts in North America, West Europe and Latin America. This attitude, combined with a decline in jobs, perhaps accounts for the lowest rates of female workforce participation in India, at 21 per cent versus the global median of 53 per cent. The IHDS also notes that even when employed, women consistently earn less than men in both agricultural wage work and salaried employment. Although there are some variations in the results based on region and religion, the Pew report by and large raises several red flags on gender outcomes in India, especially because women seem equally complicit as men in their subjugation. It is amply clear that the road to gender equality is long and arduous, and this journey has to be traversed hand-in-hand by both men and women.

(The writer is the editor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research, NCAER. The views expressed are personal.)

## SOUND BITE

It's regrettable that the situation in Ukraine has deteriorated.

India's permanent UN representative — TS Tirumurti

The fire at the (N-plant) training facility was started by Ukrainian soldiers.

Russia's ambassador to the UN — Vasily Nebenzya

My goal has been and will remain the same — to be the best at what I do.

Actor — Prateik Babbar

Rahul Dravid asked me how are you feeling and I said 'Like I'm making my debut'.

Indian batter — Virat Kohli

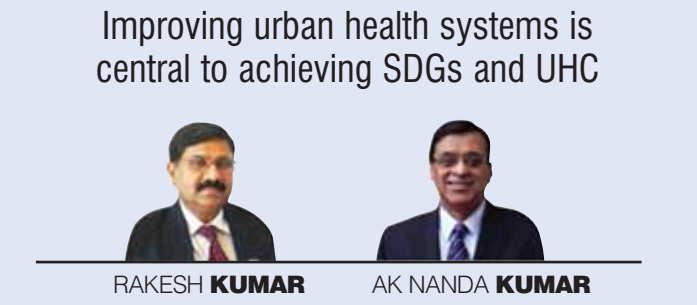
It's Delhi's first university that will prepare well-trained and highly qualified teachers.

Delhi Dy Chief Minister — Manish Sisodia



FIRST COLUMN

TRAIN HUMAN RESOURCES FOR URBAN HEALTH



It is predicted that India will become more urban than rural by 2046. Rapid urbanization has usually been associated with increased contribution to national GDP, human development, and progress but it can also be a burden on cities. Unplanned expansion pushes the migratory population to live in inhumane living conditions and in unregulated slums, mostly located in areas prone to flooding, accidents, and industrial hazards. They impact on people's health and quality of life while straining public health systems not built to cater to a growing population. Health expenditure in India accounts for less than 5 per cent of GDP and the level of out-of-pocket (OOP) spending is 69.5 per cent of total health expenditures. Nearly 74 percent of outpatient care and 65 percent of hospitalisation is provided through the private sector in urban India. In developing countries, OOP expenditure is the primary means of financing health-




care. It increases the risk of vulnerable groups slipping into poverty. Large health inequities also exist between the poor and the non-poor in cities. The Covid pandemic has made every one realize why urban health needs to be a key priority for policy makers. It is central to achieving SDGs and is linked with at least 38 sub-targets, corresponding to 15 SDGs. The recent National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) shows us that the performance of urban areas on institutional births improved in NFHS-5 from NFHS-4 in most states, except certain north-eastern states. Drinking water sources, electricity, and sanitation facilities have also improved. But more urban Indians are either malnourished, anaemic, or obese. Two out of every three children-under-five in India are anaemic. More adults are anaemic as well. Over a period, lifestyle diseases have become synonymous with the urban population. According to NFHS-5, urban Indians suffer from high blood pressure and diabetes. Only a minuscule percentage of the urban population goes for oral, cervical, or breast cancer screening. There is a lack of visibility or focused behaviour change communications focused on addressing NCDs in urban areas.

COVID-19 is the most daunting challenge our generation has faced and our response to it is going to pave the way for a more cohesive, equitable, resilient, and responsive future. Urban settings have all elements of the health system, but they need to be brought under the same umbrella. It is very important to ensure that policies and practices encourage innovation and transform challenges and crises into opportunities to engage with businesses, Governments, civil society, and academia. Health should become an agenda of urban local bodies. The approach needs to include the non-health sector interventions. Main stream in health in urban policies, infrastructure programs, and city planning processes will enable cities to prioritize governance for health. More investments in public health systems such as surveillance systems and pandemic preparedness are needed. Interdepartmental coordination (water and sanitation, livelihoods, women and child development, education, etc.) and cross-learning must be encouraged among institutions. Leveraging private and not-for-profit sectors in urban areas is of paramount importance. The National Health Policy highlights the importance of strategic purchasing from the private sector. The 'how' part remains to be addressed. Increased public health expenditure via various community health insurance and assurance schemes must be deployed to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on health, especially primary healthcare, and diagnostic services. Trained human resources for urban health are the need of the hour. As a first step, cities must partner with academic institutions for research and medical colleges in strengthening service delivery, outreach, and referral mechanisms. Building leaders, and champions in urban health are critical to strengthening health systems, achieving Universal Health Coverage and SDGs.

(Dr. Rakesh Kumar is the Chairman, Uttarakhand Public Service Commission. Dr. Ak Nanda Kumar is a Professor in Brandeis University, USA. The views expressed are personal.)

Leaving no citizen behind: The soul of Union Budget

A strategic focus on micro welfare ensuring ease of living and foundational infrastructure in rural India



NN SINHA

(The writer is Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The views expressed are personal.)

The war's impact on our fertiliser industry

Had there been a free market scenario, the industry would have come under serious strain. But that is not to be as fertilisers are under control

The crisis in Ukraine following invasion by Russia has sent shock waves through out the world economy. In India, even as the steep rise in energy import bill will affect almost all sectors of the economy, the impact on fertilizers will be more pronounced. At the outset, let us capture a few relevant facts.

Despite prognostications by successive governments during the last four decades or so that India would become self-reliant in fertilizer availability and putting in place policies aimed at achieving the goal, even today, the country remains preponderantly dependent on imports for meeting the requirements of its farmers.

Three most popular fertilizers used by farmers are urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and muriate of potash (MOP) being the major source of 'nitrogen', 'phosphate' and 'potash' nutrient respectively. Natural gas (NG) is the raw material (a more apt phrase is feedstock/fuel) used for manufacture of urea whereas phosphoric acid and ammonia are the prime raw materials (RMs) needed for making DAP.

In case of DAP, nearly 50 percent of India's requirement is sourced from other countries whereas all of MOP needed by farmers is imported. All of phosphoric acid and bulk of ammonia required is imported. Coming to urea, 1/3rd of the requirement is imported. Even for the balance 2/3rd produced domestically, India depends on import of natural gas (it comes as liquefied natural gas or LNG) to the extent of 1/3rd. This is when fertilizer gets priority in allocation of domestic gas (supplied at 'low' administered/subsidized price) next only to household consumption and use in transportation. If, this priority goes, dependence on LNG import will go up.

What role do the countries involved in the conflagration viz. (i) Russia - the prime aggressor; (ii) Belarus (bordering to Russia's north, it is extending full support to the latter and may be branded as the co-aggressor) and (iii) Ukraine, the country under attack, play in meeting India's requirements?

Russia accounts for nearly 23 percent of the world supplies of ammonia and potash each. Together with Belarus - the other major supplier of potash (20 percent), this region supplies 43 percent to world potash pool. Russia alone makes up for 14 percent of world urea supplies whereas in DAP, its contribution is around 10 percent.

In energy, Russia is the world's second-largest producer of NG with a share of 10 percent. In total world export of gas, its contribution is even higher at 25 percent. The EU countries draw 40 percent of their gas supplies from Russia. Russia is the third-largest producer of oil worldwide, accounting for over 12 percent of global crude production.



FOR INDIA, THESE DISRUPTIONS WILL MANIFEST IN THE FORM OF BOTH SUPPLY SHORTAGES AS WELL AS STEEP INCREASE IN THE IMPORT BILL. THE MAXIMUM IMPACT WILL BE FELT IN POTASH WHEREIN WE DRAW 50 PERCENT OF REQUIREMENT FROM RUSSIA AND BELARUS. EVEN IN OTHER AREAS, INDIA WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE AMID GLOBAL SHORTAGES AND RESULTANT STEEP INCREASE IN GLOBAL PRICES

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



Coming to India, whereas in potash it draws close to 50 percent of its requirement from Russia and Belarus, a good slice of ammonia also comes from this region. Nearly 60 percent of Indian DAP demand is met from China and Saudi Arabia. In case of urea, over 1/3rd of import come from China, bulk of the remaining 2/3rd coming from countries in the middle-east. With regard to gas, India's supply sources are fairly diversified including 10 percent from Russia. In view of the raging war, there will be huge disruption in supplies from the region due to a deadly cocktail of factors such as (i) economic and financial sanctions imposed by countries of Europe and the USA, (ii) physical incapacitation in the entire supply chain from mining to production to logistics and movement (albeit road) and (iii) clogging of sea transportation route even as the Black Sea is now host to the warships - primarily Russian. The EU and USA may have exempted energy supplies from sanctions for now (this is ostensibly to secure their own supplies), other obstructions like the prohibition on Russian banks from having access to SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication payment system will ensure that supplies particularly to other not so privileged countries remain disrupted. The supply disruptions are inevitable for a minimum of 3-4 months; this is even under a most optimistic scenario of an 'immediate' resolution of the crisis. Under a realistic scenario, the disruption will continue till the end of 2022. In case however, the war zone expands with NATO countries also

getting directly entangled, the dastardly consequences will be with us for several years, perhaps even decades. For India, these disruptions will manifest in the form of both supply shortages as well as steep increase in the import bill. The maximum impact will be felt in potash wherein we draw 50 percent of requirement from Russia and Belarus (already, a Belarusian potash miner has declared force majeure courtesy, US sanctions). Even in areas where our dependence on this region is less, India will have to pay more as with drastic cut in supplies from there, there will be global shortages and resultant steep increase in international prices. What will be the impact on fertilizer sector in India? Had there been a free market scenario, the industry would have come under serious stress and farmers would have had to pay higher prices. But that is not to be as fertilizers are under control. For decades, the Union government has run a system of controlling their maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level unrelated to the cost production/import and distribution and reimbursing the difference to the manufacturer/importer as subsidy from the budget. This mechanism shields both the farmers and the industry from any cost hike. During 2021-22 also, the prices of almost all fertilizers and RMs had increased leaps and bounds. The price of DAP more than doubled while, price of urea and MOP went up almost three times each. Then, an overarching factor was hike increase in energy cost (courtesy, post-pandemic recovery)

which forced major exporters to increase fertilizer prices. The resultant increase in cost was reimbursed to manufacturers by hike in subsidy by providing ₹60,000 crore over and above the budget provision of ₹80,000 crore. For 2022-23, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has reduced allocation for fertilizer subsidy to ₹105,000 crore against ₹140,000 crore spent during 2021-22. This was in the hope that the prices would decline from the elevated levels of current FY. But, in view of the Ukraine crisis, these calculations have gone haywire. Even as fertilizers prices will increase further, the price of imported LNG has already zoomed to US\$ 40 per million Btu (up from \$20 per mBtu during 2021-22). It is very likely that the government will increase the allocation to at least ₹150,000 crore or even higher depending on the extent of cost push. Prima facie, a fiscal deficit (FD) target at 6.4 percent or ₹16,60,000 crore provides enough cushion to pay for the inflated subsidy bill. However, supply shortages are not ruled if India is unable to procure required quantities. A bigger issue is: FD cushion will not be available eternally. Even as per relaxed fiscal trajectory laid down by FM in 2021-22 budget, the Government has to glide down to 4.5 percent by 2025-26. This requires reining in subsidies which will be possible only when India reduces its dependence on import. That is where little was achieved in the past and there is nothing on the horizon to instill confidence that things will look better.

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE (PREVENTION OF UNLAWFUL CONVERSION) BILL DOES NOT REFER TO ANY RELIGION IN PARTICULAR. — HARYANA HOME MINISTER ANIL VIJ



YOU ARE ERECTING A WALL BETWEEN RAM AND RAHIM. WHAT'S THE URGENCY? SEND IT TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE FIRST. — CONGRESS LEGISLATOR FROM BERI RAGHUVIR SINGH KADIAN

Leaving no citizen behind: The soul of Union Budget

A strategic focus on micro welfare ensuring ease of living and foundational infrastructure in rural India



this is an unprecedented push for quality of life which will also enable Gram Panchayats to function as local 'public utilities' with a focus on 'service delivery'.

The Ministry of Rural Development has set an ambitious target 2.5 crore livelihoods in next 3 years. In 2022-23, the Rural Development Department has been allocated ₹1,35,944 crore, with demand-responsive supplemental allocation in MGNREGS. DAY-NRLM leverages the strength of the community collectives for capacitating women members to take livelihoods activities that adds on to their family income, along with NSAP, DDGKUY - Ministry is in a good position to eliminate poverty through promotion of diversified and gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities much before SDG targets of 2030.

The pandemic has seen emergence of a new governance coalition of Panchayats and women collectives, we have taken measures for integration of livelihood planning process with Panchayat planning mutually strengthening both and ensuring inclusion of all households particularly the most vulnerable. The Government has doubled collateral free loans for SHGs from ₹10 lakh to 20 lakh, now the Government is also planning to ensure that the SHGs get such loans to strengthen

their activities without any hassles. The new and more challenging area of work would be credit mobilisation for the SHG members taking up enterprises. At present DAY-NRLM provides women members of self-help group access to capital through grants to the women's institutions from the mission as well as credit from the financial institutions. In addition, recent efforts at convergence have resulted in assets support from MGNREGS, skills/technology support under DDGKUY, support through PMFME and various government schemes that could enable members of SHGs to livelihood intensification. Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana & Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme

(DILRMP) will also make a huge difference and expedite rural development as the Budget 2022-23 brings them under focus. The scheme allocation has been increased by 64%, convergence with MGNREGS will ensure climate adaptive future livelihoods. DILRMP is a part of the Digital India initiative. Major components of the programme include: (i) computerisation of all existing land records, (ii) digitisation of maps, (iii) survey/re-survey, and updating of all settlement records, and (iv) computerisation of the registration process and its integration with the land records maintenance system. The Government has identified that scaling up structured social development efforts under DAY-NRLM through the community institutions are immensely important and bringing awareness and access to services related to nutrition, health, sanitation, and gender issues under focus to ensure quality of life for the SHG women as these are important for curtailing expenditures on health. The Ministry now has adopted a Whole of Rural Development (WRD) approach to target supporting additional livelihoods activities, integrated approach would entail a seamless matching of the supply of livelihoods schemes and programs from Governments - Centre and State - skills, assets, services and resources available with the demands of the community. Fortunately, most of the above architecture is ready, as a component of the broader anti-poverty strategy.



**AP**  **WASHINGTON**

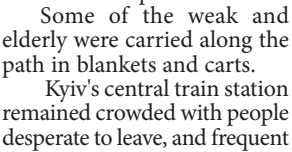
Here's a look at key things to know about the conflict Sunday: Ukrainian Interior Ministry adviser Anton Gerashchenko blamed Russian artillery fire for halting a second attempt in as many days to evacuate civilians from

Russian forces launched hundreds of missiles and artillery attacks across the country, including powerful bombs dropped on residential areas of Chernihiv, a city north

Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in a statement carried by

Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Sunday that some Ukrainian combat planes had redeployed to Romania and

In Irpin, near Kyiv, a sea of people on foot and even in wheelbarrows trudged over the remains of a destroyed bridge to cross a river and leave the city. Assisted by Ukrainian sol-



Intense diplomatic efforts continued, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Moldova pledging America's support to the small Western-leaning former Soviet republic. The country is coping with an

Blinken says the United States and its allies are having a "very active discussion" about banning the import of Russian oil and natural gas.

AP  VILNIUS

"Unfortunately, the worsening security situation in the Baltic region is of great concern for all of us and around the world," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda told Blinken. "Russia's reckless aggression against Ukraine once again proves that it is a long-term threat to European security, the security of our alliance."

Many others are trapped in cities under fire. Food, water, medicine and almost all other supplies were in desperately short supply in Mariupol, which

**AP ■ THE HAGUE**

**A** representative for Kyiv urged the United Nations' top court on Monday to order Russia to halt its devastating invasion of Ukraine, at a hearing snubbed by Russia amid its ongoing assault on its neighbour. Ukrainian representatives

Russia and Ukraine have traded blame for the failure of a cease-fire there over the weekend. In the latest cease-fire proposal, most of the evacuation routes were toward Russia or its ally Belarus, a move Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Irina Vereshchuk called "unacceptable." Belarus served as a launching ground for the invasion. "Providing evacuation routes into the arms of the country that is currently destroying yours is a nonsense," said U.K. Europe Minister James Cleverly.

The Ukrainian government instead proposed eight routes that would allow civilians to travel to western regions of Ukraine where there is no Russian shelling. The Russian task force said the new pledge for humanitarian corridors was announced at the request of French President Emmanuel Macron, who spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin Sunday. Macron's office said he asked for a broader end to military operations in Ukraine and protections for civilians.

## AP ■ THE HAGUE

If the court were to order a halt to hostilities, "I think the chance of that happening is zero," said Terry Gill, a professor of military law at the University of Amsterdam. He noted that if a nation does not abide by the court's orders, judges could seek action from the United Nations Security Council, where Russia holds veto. Russia's seats at the Great Hall of Justice in the court's Peace Palace headquarters were empty for the hearing. The court's president, American judge Joan E. Donoghue, said

"Ukraine emphatically denies that any such genocide has occurred, and that the Russian Federation has any lawful basis to take action in and against Ukraine for the purpose of preventing and punishing genocide," the country said in its claim to the court.

Ukraine's nine-page legal filing launching the case argues

Regardless of the outcome of the hearings, they give Ukraine another platform to air grievances about Moscow's invasion. "It's part of, I think, an overall diplomatic strategy to try to put maximum pressure on Russia," said Gill.

**partn**  
AP ■ BEIJING

"No matter how perilous the international landscape, we will maintain our strategic focus and promote the development of a comprehensive China-Russia partnership in the new era," Wang told reporters at a news conference.

Russia endorsed China's view of self-governing Taiwan as an "inalienable part of China, and opposes any forms of independence of Taiwan," while China backed Russia in opposing the further enlargement of NATO. Since then, Xi's government has refused to criticize the Russian invasion but tried to distance itself from Putin's war by calling for dialogue and the respect of national sovereignty.

Another \$1.5 billion in grants will be available under President Joe Biden's infrastructure law - a total of \$7.5

Buttigieg was joining Vice President Kamala Harris, who has pushed the need for electric school buses, along with EPA Administrator Michael Regan and other officials at the White House on Monday.

**Terms of Sale**

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents to participate in the auction. Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My client (1) Mr. Tapas Kamal Chakrabarti and (2) Mrs. Sharmila Chakrabarti intend to purchase FREEHOLD SCOTTECH SFS Flat No. 190-B on First Floor ALLONGWORTH SCOTTECH GARAGE CATEGORY-II, situated at POCKET-C SIDHARTHA EXTENSION, NEW DELHI-110014 from Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Upadhyay who is the owner of the said flat by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 09.08.2017 and in the said Relinquishment Deed "Pocket-C" has been inadvertently not mentioned. However, the said flat is known as FREEHOLD DDA SFS Flat No. 190-B, of First Floor ALLONGWORTH SCOTTECH GARAGE, CATEGORY-II, situated at POCKET-C, SIDHARTHA EXTENSION, NEW DELHI-110014 and now my client intends to purchase the same. If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right or interest whatsoever in the said property, shall also file a written objection, duly signed with documentary evidence, in the event of no response to this notice, then our client shall procure that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear.

**Karnail Singh, Advocate**

**K8, Basement, Jangpura Extension New Delhi**  
**Contact No. 9811636324 & 9958638336**

Efforts to set up safe passages for civilians to leave besieged areas over the weekend fell apart. But the Russian Defense Ministry announced a new push Monday, saying civilians would be allowed to leave the capital of Kyiv, the southern port city of Mariupol, and the cities of Kharkiv and Sumy.

**To Whomsoever It May Concern**  
I, Zaid Mohd. Shaikh S/o  
Mohd. Akhlaq R/o 7678,  
Gali Munshi, Qasabpura,  
Delhi 110006 revoke all  
Power of Attorney granted to  
Mohd. Irfan S/o Jamal Uddin  
R/o 7678, Gali Munshi,  
Qasabpura, Delhi 110006.  
**Anshul Gupta, Advocate**  
D/940/2014

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Sawinder Singh Rekhi, Sh. Late Sh. Balwinder Singh Rekhi, Age 69 years and Mrs. Gurpreet Kaur Rekhi w/o Sh. Sawinder Singh Rekhi Age 64 years both R/o Flia Phase-I, NO-K-40B, KC Block, Anokh Vihar, New Delhi-110052 have disowned and disinherited their son Sh. Sukhpreet Singh Rekhi and his wife Smt. Satinder Kaur Dheeran from all their movable and immovable Properties and also Severed all their relations owing to their rude, Indifferent and Unruly behaviour. Who ever deals with them in any manner shall be doing so at his/her own risks and consequences.

**Vardaan Dhawan & Associates (Advocates)**  
1840, 1st Floor, Near Gagan Pratap Azad Market, Delhi-110006  
Mobile No. 9819330993

**NOTICE**

IT is for general information that I, ANANCHAL KHANNA D/o Sh. BALRAM MAGO, Ex-wife of PANKAJ KHANNA, R/o 209, 2nd Floor, Avtar Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 declare that I got divorce from my husband PANKAJ KHANNA vide Court Decree HMMA No.41/2013 dated 12/03/2013. Further, I remarried with RAJEEV KUMAR RAJPUT, S/o Sh. AVINASH CHANDER RAJPUT, R/o 231, POCKET C-2, SECTOR 7, ROHINI, DELHI-110085 vide Marriage Certificate No.907300000001 dated 04/05/2014. Henceforth, I have changed the name of mine and my minor daughter AASHNA KHANNA, aged 17 years and which hereafter be known as ANCHAL MAGO and AASHNA RAJPUT respectively and also the name of father of my minor daughter may be known as RAJEEV KUMAR RAJPUT in future for all purposes.

## SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

### Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Part of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Jaishree Sharma/ Rajesh Sharma/ Prem G Shankar Sharma/ LBGUR00003967305	Flat No. A- 301, 3rd Floor, A Wing, Hari Aangan Group Housing Project, Village Deolali, Nashik/ March 04, 2022	June 19,2021 Rs. 26,80,999/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date :** March 08, 2022

**Place:** Delhi/ NCR

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



# Investors lose ₹11.28 lakh crore in four days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth has tumbled by over Rs 11.28 lakh crore in four days, tracking a heavy decline in equities amid intensifying conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Sliding for the fourth straight day on Monday, the BSE benchmark Sensex plummeted 1,491.06 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at 52,842.75, weighed by weak global equities and elevated crude oil prices. During the session, the benchmark tanked 1,966.71 points or 3.61 per cent to 52,367.10. In tandem with the heavy sell-off in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies plunged by Rs 11,28,214.05 crore in four days

to stand at Rs 2,41,10,831.04 crore. In the four sessions, the BSE benchmark has shed 3,404.53 points or 6.05 per cent. "Markets plunged sharply lower and lost over 2 per cent, tracking a continuous surge in crude and feeble global cues. Markets are rattled with a sharp surge in crude amid fear of further sanctions on Russia. Besides, there's no sign of de-escalation of tension between the two nations. "In short, we expect volatility to remain high and suggest keeping a close watch on global markets for cues. On the domestic front, state elections exit polls and actual results on March 10 would be actively tracked," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd. International oil bench-

mark Brent crude surged 5.76 per cent to USD 124.7 a barrel. From the 30-share Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and Mahindra & Mahindra were the biggest drag, tumbling up to 7.63 per cent. In contrast, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, Tata Steel and Infosys settled in the green. Among BSE sectoral indices, realty, bank, finance and auto finished with deep cuts. Foreign institutional investors continued their selling spree in Indian markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 7,631.02 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

# Rupee plummets 84 paise to all-time low amid Ukraine crisis

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee tanked 84 paise to close at its lifetime low of 77.01 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as intensifying geopolitical risks due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict pushed investors to safe haven assets. Forex traders said escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine kept crude oil prices at an elevated level and heightened worries about domestic inflation and wider trade deficits. Sustained foreign fund outflows and a lacklustre trend in domestic equities also weighed on investor sentiment. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 76.85 against the American currency but lost ground and settled for the day at a record low of 77.01, down 84 paise from the previous close. On Friday, the rupee fell by

All-time low of 77.01/USD 23 paise to close at 76.17 -- its lowest closing level since December 15, 2021. "The Indian rupee has plummeted to a lifetime low against the US dollar as the deepening Russia-Ukraine conflict has sapped risk appetite in the market while prompting safe-haven flows into the US dollar," said Sugandha Sachdeva, Vice President - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking Ltd. Besides, the parabolic rise in crude oil prices towards multi-year highs and spiralling commodity prices are fuelling inflationary risks, which is a key headwind for the rupee-dollar exchange rate, Sachdeva added. According to Sachdeva, the overall trend for the Indian rupee is skewed towards the downside and "a convincing

close below the 77 mark would pave the way for further downside towards 77.50 mark in near term, while we envisage the local currency to test the 79 mark from a medium-term perspective." Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.46 per cent higher at 99.09. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures jumped 6.55 per cent to USD 125.85 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share Sensex ended 1,491.06 points or 2.74 per cent lower at 52,842.75, while the broader NSE Nifty plunged 382.20 points or 2.35 per cent to 15,863.15. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 7,631.02 crore, according to stock exchange data.

# Sensex crashes 1,491 pts as surging oil pummels markets

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex plunged 1,491 points while the Nifty slumped below the 16,000-mark on Monday, mirroring a deep sell-off in world stocks after oil prices soared to multi-year highs amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, stoking fears of hyper-inflation and sluggish growth. A sharp drop in the rupee, which tumbled to an all-time low against the US dollar, and persistent foreign fund outflows added to the woes, traders said. Extending its downtrend for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a weak note and slumped 1,966.71 points or 3.61 per cent to 52,367.10 during the day. It managed to recover some lost ground to end at 52,842.75, down 1,491.06 points or 2.74 per cent. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tanked 382.20 points or 2.35 per cent to finish at 15,863.15. Both the indices closed at over seven-month lows. In four days, the BSE benchmark has lost 3,404.53 points or 6.05 per cent. IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech

Cement and Mahindra & Mahindra were the biggest drags on the Sensex in Monday's session, diving up to 7.63 per cent. Only four counters closed in the green -- Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, Tata Steel and Infosys, rising up to 3.46 per cent. "Oil prices surged above USD 130 a barrel for the first time since July 2008, following the risk of a US and European ban on Russia's oil export which accounts for about 10 per cent of global supply. As a result, the domestic market along with its global peers witnessed a huge sell-off from opening hours. "Inflationary pressure is also witnessed in other commodities like gold, aluminium, copper, etc which will eventually eat away corporate profits in the coming quarters," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said markets were rattled by the sharp surge in crude oil prices amid fear of further sanctions on Russia. "Besides, there's no sign of de-escalation of tension between the two nations. In short, we expect volatility to remain high and suggest keep-

ing a close watch on global markets for cues. On the domestic front, state elections exit polls and actual results on March 10 would be actively tracked," he noted. The broader market also faced the brunt, with the BSE smallcap and midcap indices diving as much as 2.30 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, realty, bank, finance and auto finished with deep cuts, tumbling up to 5.31 per cent. Only telecom, metal, oil & gas and teck finished with gains. As many as 2,608 stocks declined, while 849 advanced and 137 remained unchanged. Bourses in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo settled significantly lower. Stock exchanges in Europe too were trading in the negative zone in the afternoon session. International oil benchmark Brent crude surged 6.08 per cent to USD 125.3 a barrel. The rupee tanked 93 paise to close at its lifetime low of 77.10 against the US dollar on Monday. Foreign institutional investors continued their selling spree in Indian markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 7,631.02 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

# TCS' ₹18,000-crore share buyback to open on March 9

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday said its Rs 18,000 crore share buyback offer will open on March 9 and close on March 23. On February 12, the company announced the share buyback programme entailing 4 crore shares at Rs 4,500 apiece. TCS has fixed April 1, 2022 as the last date for settlement of bids on stock exchanges which may even happen earlier, according

to a BSE filing. TCS promoters - Tata Sons and Tata Investment Corporation Ltd (TICL) - intend to participate in the buyback offer by tendering shares worth about Rs 12,993.2 crore, according to a company document filed earlier. Tata Sons, which holds about 266.91 crore shares, intends to tender 2.88 crore shares, while TICL (which holds 10,23,685 shares) intends to tender 11,055 shares, it added. At Rs 4,500 apiece, the

two entities will rake in about Rs 12,993.2 crore. The previous Rs 16,000 crore-buyback of TCS had opened on December 18, 2020, and closed on January 1, 2021. Tata Sons had tendered shares worth Rs 9,997.5 crore in that offer. Over 5.33 crore equity shares were bought at that time (offer price was Rs 3,000 apiece) and out of the total, Tata Sons' 3,33,25,118 shares were accepted under the buyback offer.

# Hexagon Nutrition gets Sebi's nod to garner ₹600-cr via IPO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hexagon Nutrition has received capital markets regulator Sebi's approval to raise up to ₹600 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The company's public issue consists of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 100 crore, and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 30,113,918 equity shares, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The OFS comprises sale of up to 77 lakh shares by Arun Purushottam Kelkar, up to 61.36 lakh shares by Subhash Purushottam Kelkar, up to 15 lakh shares by Anuradha Arun Kelkar, up to 25 lakh shares by Nutan Subhash Kelkar, up to 1.22 crore shares by Somerset Indus Healthcare Fund I Ltd and up to 73,668 shares by Mayur Sirdesai. Hexagon Nutrition, which filed preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in December 2021,

obtained its observations letter on March 4 2022, an update with the regulator showed on Monday. In Sebi's parlance, its observation implies its go-ahead to float the initial share-sale. As per market sources, the issue size will be approximately in the range of ₹500-600 crore. Proceeds from fresh issuance will be used for debt payments, funding incremental working capital requirements, supporting capital expenditure for expanding an existing facility, investment in subsidiary and financing capital expenditure at the existing facility and general corporate purposes. Mumbai-based Hexagon Nutrition is a fully integrated company engaged in product development and marketing, including research and development and nutrition manufacturing. Founded by Arun and Subash Kelkar in 1993,

Hexagon Nutrition started as a micro-nutrient formulations player, and today it has moved up the value chain to develop brands like Pentasure, Obesigo and Pediagold, which are leading names in the health, wellness and clinical nutrition space. In 2016, offshore private equity firm Somerset Indus Healthcare Fund-I, along with Mayur Anand Sardesai, an advisor and director at Somerset Health Capital Advisors, had invested Rs 25 crore for a 10 per cent stake in the company. Hexagon Nutrition had set up a trading company in South Africa in 2019 and has plans to build a facility there. The company is also setting up a factory in Uzbekistan that is expected to commence operations by the first quarter of 2022. Equirus Capital and SBI Capital Markets are the book running lead managers to the issue.

# After Covid dip, TV ad volumes grow 22% in 2021

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Overall television advertising volumes grew 22 per cent to 1,824 million seconds in 2021, after getting hit in the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) said on Monday. The overall volumes had declined to 1,497 million seconds in 2020 from the 1,542 million seconds in 2019. The BCCI-promoted cricketing tournament Indian Premier League (IPL) did not seem to reflect the broader interest among advertisers, with BARC saying that the volumes in 2021 were at par at 16.80 lakh seconds. The growth in the premium high-definition channels advertising at 11 per cent did not keep up with the same in the standard definition segment at 22 per cent, it added. From the overall perspective, the top-ten advertisers accounted for 780 million seconds or a little less than half of the volume, while the next 40

accounted for 340 million seconds, the report said. BARC's head for client partnerships and revenue function Aadiya Pathak said 2021 got them much needed cheer to the broadcast industry, and over 9,000 advertisers chose television as a medium to push their messaging. TV had a total of 9,239 advertisers and 14,616 brands advertised on the medium in 2021, of which 4,483 or nearly half were either new advertisers or returning ones, as per the report. The fast-moving consumer goods category at 1,117

million seconds accounted for the highest share in the overall volumes, followed by e-commerce at 185 million seconds and building, industrial and land materials/equipment at 60 million seconds, it said. Among the TV genres, the Hindi general entertainment channels garnered the highest share of advertising volumes, but the Bhojpuri segment has seen a doubling of volumes in the last two years, it said, adding that

Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati and Assamese language channels posted over 40 per cent growth over 2019. The Tokyo Olympics, which got delayed to 2021 due to the pandemic, saw 4.6 lakh seconds of advertising, which was almost at par with the games' last edition at Rio De Janeiro in 2016, it said. A total of 34 advertisers and 61 brands advertised during the Tokyo Olympics.

**Enhancing medical infrastructure** New Delhi: With aim to strengthen infrastructure by providing access to advanced medical facilities and radiology services, Goodyear India provided high-grade radiology equipment to the radiology department Asian Institute of Medical Sciences, Faridabad, as part of its CSR initiative. Sandeep Mahajan, CMD, Goodyear India Ltd, said, "Supporting healthcare initiatives which positively impact communities around us is a key focus and this partnership is another step in this direction."

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd Office Number 201-B, 2nd Floor, Road No. 1 Plot No-B3 , Wifi It Park, Wagle Industrial Estate Thane (West) 400604

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Akshay Verma & Neeta Verma- LBBHP00003702792	Flat No- A-404, Block-a, Olan Park City, Katara Hills, Khasara No. 106/2, 106/1, 125 and 107, Bhopal- 462 015/ March 03, 2022	April 11, 2019 Rs. 38,01,074.00/-	Bhopal

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date :** March 08, 2022

**Place:** Noida

**Authorized Officer**  
ICICI Bank Limited

# Hero Electric to deploy 10k e-two wheelers with swappable battery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hero Electric on Monday said it has partnered with SUN Mobility to deploy 10,000 electric two-wheelers with swappable battery technology. As part of the tie up, Hero would utilise SUN Mobility's swappable battery technology to deploy about 10,000 electric two-wheelers by the end of next fiscal. "Battery Swapping is emerging as a good catalyst for the exponential growth of the E two-wheelers in India. It reduces the upfront cost of buying a two-wheeler, eliminates the range anxiety and the apprehensions about the useful life of the batteries. "It certainly makes a lot of sense for the B2B customers as the swapping stations can be placed in the working zones for the riders to allow them to run their bikes without waiting for the recharging of the batteries," Hero Electric CEO said.

# Shriram Housing loan-book grows 45% to cross ₹5,000-cr so far this fiscal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Affordable housing player Shriram Housing Finance has said its AUM or live loan grew 45 per cent so far this fiscal to cross the ₹5,000-crore-mark, making it the fifth-largest in the low-cost housing loan segment. The company, however, missed the target by two months due to the third wave of the pandemic, which delayed collection and disburseals. Its Rs 5,000-crore AUM target was set for December 2021. Shriram Housing Finance, promoted by Shriram City Union Finance, commenced operations in December 2011 and operates around 100 stand-alone branches and over 200 branches inside its sister concerns Shriram City Union and Shriram Transport Finance branches. Its footprint will cross 105 own branches (up from 77 last year) and 218 kiosks by the end of this

month. Had it not been for the third wave and the resultant curbs on our operations, which impacted collections, the AUM would have already crossed the ₹5000-crore-mark in December as planned. This also will impact the annual target of Rs 5,500 crore of live loans, and we should now be closing the year with ₹5,200-5,300 crore of AUM, Ravi Subramanian, MD and chief executive of the city-based firm, told PTI on Monday. But, he was quick to add that the good news is that they are now the fifth-largest affordable housing lender and hopefully will be the fourth-largest by the end of this month. Aadhara Housing leads the segment with a loan book of around Rs 14,000 crore, followed by Awas and Repco with around Rs 10,000 crore each, and Homefirst is slight-

ly more than Shriram's book. Hopefully, we will overtake the present number four by the end of this month and become the fourth-largest with an AUM of ₹5,200-5,300 crore, Subramanian said, adding this will further cement our position as the fastest-growing firm in the segment with the highest quality -- our gross NPA declined from 5.6 per cent to an 8-year low of 1.49 per cent and should decline further to 1.1-1.3 per cent by the end of this quarter. He attributed the massive improvement in the asset quality to the decentralised underwriting practices coupled with better customer selection, which has resulted in only 7 per cent of the nearly 1 lakh customers being first-time borrowers and more than enough emphasis on collection led to collection efficiency improving to 99.7 per cent in December and 97 per cent of the customers have paid at least one EMI in Q3.

**FORM NO.5**  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**  
**600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow-226007.**  
**(ARE OF JURISDICTION- PART OF UTTAR PRADESH)**  
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication  
**O.A. No. 186/2020**  
**(Summons to defendant under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application No.186 of 2020**

ICICI BANK LTD. ....Applicant  
Versus  
Mrs. Alka Singh & Others ....Defendants

**To,**  
**Defendants:**  
**1) Mrs. Alka Singh.**  
Wife of Mr. Shubhendra Singh Bishen, Resident of Flat No.1103, 3rd Floor Tower E, Misty Height Plot No. City Adjoining Techzone-IV, Noida-201307. (U.P.).  
**ALSO** Resident of Flat No.1503 Tower-E The Hyde Park Sector-78 , Noida 201301.(U.P.).  
**2) Mr. Shubhendra Singh Bishen,**  
Resident of Flat No.1103, 3rd Floor Tower E, Misty Height Plot No.City Adjoining Techzone-IV, Noida-201307. (U.P.).  
**ALSO** Resident of Flat No.1503 Tower-E The Hyde Park Sector-78, Noida 201301.(U.P.).  
**3) M/S Maple Realcon Pvt. Ltd.** Reg. Plot No. 69 Soho House, Gyan Khand-1, Indrapuram Gaziabad-201010(U.P.).  
"In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 10/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.  
**Registrar**  
**Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow**

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 08.03.2022

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/CRA/G/0996	REPAIRING OF ONE NO. 12.5/16 MVA, 33/11KV POWER TRANSFORMER AT MASJID MOTH GRID IN BRPL.	77 Lacs	1.54 Lacs	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 15:15 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/FH/0997	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1T AERIALY BUNCHED CABLES OF SIZES 3CX150 & 3CX95 SQ.MM	44 Cr.	44,00,000	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 15:30 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/FH/0999	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 2CX25 & 4CX25 SQ.MM	8 Cr.	8,00,000	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 15:45 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/FH/1001	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 4CX150 SQ.MM	5 Cr.	10,00,000	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 16:15 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/RJ/1004	SUPPLY OF TRAFQ,DISTR,1000KVA,11KV/0.433KV,R3D DIM. ESTER OIL	11.38 Cr.	11,38,000	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 16:30 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/SN/1008	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1 PH & 3 PH BLUETOOTH ENABLED METER	1.85 Cr.	3,70,000	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 16:45 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/SN/1009	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF LTCT SMART METER WITH INBUILT MODEM & CT BOX	2.45 Cr.	4,90,000	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 17:00 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/SN/1010	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1 PH & 3 PH SMART PREPAID METER WITH BOX	9.20 Cr.	9,20,000	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 17:15 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/SN/1011	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF CT OPERATED HT, DT AND ABT METERS WITH FACTORY FITTED MODEMS AND BOX	1.50 Cr.	3,00,000	28.03.2022 15:00 HRS	28.03.2022 17:30 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-

For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC11527

Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | Website : [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)



DOCYARD

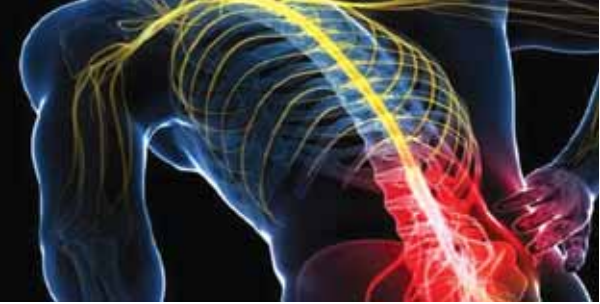
DR AYUSH SHARMA

Founder and Director

LASER SPINE CLINIC



# Keep active to keep healthy



The sciatic nerve pain, which is more than often shortened to a medical condition called sciatica, entails symptoms of pain in the leg, little or strong numbness that begins in the lower back and then goes down to the buttock and towards the back of the leg. Generally, sciatica is believed to affect only one side of the lower body, with the pain extending from the lower back all the way to the back of the thigh and down through the back of the leg. This pain is likely to further extend to the foot or the toes depending on where the sciatic nerve has been affected, hence differing from one person to the other.

Characterised by more than one symptom; while some patients complain of severe and unbearable pain, some share their experience of it as infrequent and irritating. These pains however, are suspected to worsen in the future and hence recommend precautions and exercises accordingly.

Akin to the effects of this pain on different individuals, specific sciatica symptoms also vary in type, location and severity, depending upon the condition that is causing the sciatica. Patients may also complain of tingling or pins & needles feeling in the same distribution. Though permanent sciatic nerve damage (tissue damage) is a relatively rare event, when it happens then it's often irreversible. Therefore, if one experiences weakness in the lower region, numbness in the upper thighs, and/or loss of bladder or bowel control, it is advised to seek immediate medical assistance before the condition aggravates/ worsens.

## SYMPTOMS

- ❖ You might experience continuous pain in only one side of the buttock or leg (rarely can occur in both legs).
- ❖ A pain that tends to worsen when sitting or coughing/sneezing.
- ❖ Some numbness, weakness or even difficulty in moving the foot or the leg.
- ❖ Experiencing burning or tingling down the leg.
- ❖ You can also witness a sharp pain that makes it difficult to stand up or to walk.

## CAUSES

- ❖ Sciatica mainly occurs due to the irritation of the root(s) of the lower lumbar and lumbosacral spine. Most common cause of the same is a prolapsed or herniated disc in the spine (often referred to as slipped disc). Some other causes of sciatica include:
  - ❖ Lumbar spinal stenosis
  - ❖ Degenerative disc disease
  - ❖ Spondylolisthesis
  - ❖ If you are pregnant, obese, or wear high heels and sleep on a highly soft mattress, you are likely to develop sciatica pain.

**Treatment:** If you have a herniated disk, this does not necessarily imply that you will need surgery, there are numerous cases where the symptoms have improved with time. Rather, nine out of 10 patients with sciatica do not need surgery.

Often, it's a combination of precautions, medicines and controlled exercises that help to treat the pain.

**Precautions:** Patients must avoid sudden or extremes of movements at the lower back to prevent worsening of the pain. Activities such as squatting, kneeling down, bending at the waist, lifting heavy weights (or even light weights wrongly) should be avoided.

Exercise and physical therapy – Doctors usually schedule a very specific, controlled, progressive exercise program. This is so because no matter how counterintuitive it sounds; exercises work comparatively well in case of sciatica in opposition to bed rest. So, you might rest for a day or two when the pain gets worse, but after some time inactivity begins to work the other way round. These exercises mainly serve these two purposes:


- ❖ They reduce the sciatic pain in the near term
- ❖ They help provide conditioning that can prevent future recurrences of the pain.

Devoid of an exercise regime, the back muscles and spinal structures obviously become deconditioned and hence are less able to support the back. This can further lead to back injury and strain which in turn will give rise to more pain. Effective movements of the body also assist in the exchange of nutrients and fluids within the discs and keep them healthy hence preventing any strain on the sciatic nerve.

A lot of patients have found relief through endoscopic or endoportal decompression which is a 30 minutes procedure requiring less than 24 hours hospitalisation. So, surgery might be the last resort for sciatica pain, but your doctor will ensure that he has tried and tested all possible means before he asks you to head towards it. And considering the irreversible nature of nerve damage that can happen with careless handling of the condition or with self-medication, it is highly recommended to consult a neurosurgeon/spine surgeon/ortho surgeon at an early stage of the pain.

## WARMFOOD

DARK CHOCOLATE: Fiber, iron, magnesium, copper, manganese, and a few other minerals are abundant in high-quality dark chocolate. In fact, they contain far more than the majority of other foods. Cocoa's bioactive components may increase artery blood flow and lower blood pressure by a tiny but statistically significant amount.



It reduces LDL's oxidative damage susceptibility while raising HDL and enhancing insulin sensitivity. Observational studies reveal that those who eat the most chocolate had a lower risk of heart disease. It may also protect your skin from the sun



## Investing in eye exams early on in life can prevent permanent blindness, better quality of life and associated financial expenses, says DR SUNEETA DUBEY

Approximately 596 million people worldwide had distance vision impairment in 2020, out of whom, 43 million were blind. Causes that lead to vision loss often require early treatment and continuous rehabilitative interventions. This is true for diseases such as glaucoma, cataract, uncorrected refractive error, and age-related macular degeneration among others.

Globally, glaucoma is the second most common cause of blindness. In fact, according to WHO, about 4.5 million people are blind due to glaucoma. It is also the third leading cause of blindness in India after cataract and untreated refractive errors. Over time, if the eye pressure remains constantly high, the optic nerve, which sends images from the eyes to the brain, can get damaged. If left untreated, an increased eye pressure can lead to visual impairment and at times blindness.

### NEED FOR REGULAR EYE PRESSURE CHECK-UPS

Early detection through regular eye check-up is important to control further disease severity in glaucoma patients. Eye pressure is checked by what is known as a tonometry test to determine the intraocular pressure. The normal eye pressure is about 10-20 mm Hg. In glaucoma cases, the pressure is 22mm Hg or more. There are, how-

ever, times when one may develop glaucoma even without an increase in eye pressure. Nonetheless, it is vital to get the eye pressure checked every year if the disease is not at a severe stage. Those with severe glaucoma must get their eye pressure checked every two months.

### CRUCIAL QUESTION TO ASK AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST DURING EYE CHECK-UP

While visiting an ophthalmologist, people with a family history of glaucoma should ask questions and present concerns to be equipped with relevant information and knowledge. Some people don't have glaucoma but may be categorised as glaucoma suspects as the way the optic nerve appears, but the diagnosis may be indefinite. The diagnosis may also be challenging if the patient has nearsightedness or myopia. If someone is a glaucoma suspect, it is advisable to go for follow ups regularly as the diagnosis may progress to glaucoma. Patients should ask about the reading of eye pressure and if it is showing improvement due to the treatment advised. Stable symptoms indicate that the patient is responding well to the treatment regime.

### IMPORTANT TIPS FOR PEOPLE WITH FAMILY HISTORY OF GLAUCOMA

People with a family history of glaucoma must get a complete eye exam every one or two years, especially if they are above 40 years of



**DR SUNEETA DUBEY,**  
Chairperson - Quality Assurance & Head, Glaucoma Services, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

**People with a family history of glaucoma must get a complete eye exam every one or two years, especially if they are above 40 years of age. Additionally, if one has any other issues such as diabetes or high blood pressure, they must get their eyes examined frequently. Investing in eye care goes a long way in maintaining eye health and preventing exorbitant medical expenses, which may occur at a later stage**

age. Additionally, if one has any other issues such as diabetes or high blood pressure, they must get their eyes examined frequently. Investing in eye care goes a long way in maintaining eye health and preventing exorbitant medical expenses, which may occur at a later stage. Glaucoma leads to an increase in the overall medical expenses directly or indirectly via consultations, hospital visits, tests, and more. There is an increased financial burden if the severity of the disease is more or if the condition is undiagnosed till it has advanced to a severe stage. Regular eye check-ups and early medical intervention can save the patients and their families from substantial financial implications.

### DETECTION AND TREATMENT

Once glaucoma is detected, the doctor will advise the line of treatment depending on the severity of your case. A suitable treatment option aims at lowering eye pressure. Depending on the disease severity, a patient could be prescribed eye drops, oral medicines sometimes, laser treatment, or surgery. The only way to ensure slowing down the progression is to be regular with follow-ups and not delay or miss the appointments with the treating doctor.

Investing in eye exams early on in life can prevent permanent blindness, better quality of life and associated financial expenses.

## Lifestyle changes that matter



It is a popular misbelief that fertility is a woman's problem, male infertility is

an equally significant concern today. ROHIT SHELATKAR shares how to build better reproductive health for both

Conversations surrounding reproductive health are most likely to be deferred for a later stage in life and are often conducted in silos. Both these approaches need tweaking though because reproductive health isn't something that can be looked at only when couples/individuals are looking to conceive nor should it be spoken about in isolation as reproductive health is ultimately connected to and influenced by overall physical and mental well-being. Additionally, it is a popular misconception that fertility is a woman's problem, male infertility is an equally significant concern today. Thus, the problem of infertility should be equitably shouldered by men and women and both need to build their reproductive health over a period of time.

### Change in lifestyle

In terms of reproductive health, lifestyle change cannot be stressed enough. A man's sperm count, motility, and morphology are all strongly influenced by the quality of his lifestyle. Stress, alcohol consumption, and smoking can adversely affect male fertility. Similarly, for women, tobacco use is associated with lower fertility rates. Smoking contributes significantly to the ageing of the ovaries and leads to a quick and premature depletion of eggs and increased risk of ovulation disorders and hormonal imbalance. Maintaining an optimal body weight and getting regular exercise are essential for both. Regular exercise can help women reduce the risk of ovulation problems and manage fertility disorders like PCOS. Obesity can reduce sperm quality and fertility in men.

### Micronutrient Supplementation

Boosting reproductive health and subsequently improving fertility is based on changes that happen at a cellular level in the body. Hence, the lack of micronutrients in the body can have a negative impact on reproductive health for both men and women.

**Zinc:** For women, lower rates of zinc in the blood have been associated with longer time periods to conceive. As for men, the mineral is essential for the formation of sperm.

**Vitamin D:** It is especially important for women, as low levels of it have been associated with PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome) which acts as a major impediment for women who are trying to get pregnant.

**Selenium:** Although it doesn't get too much importance, it has a significant role to play in reproductive health. For women, selenium can help to maintain the health of follicular fluid that surrounds eggs, and for men, it is a necessary element in the production of sperm.

Together, lifestyle changes coupled with vitamin supplementation and a healthy diet full of nutritious foods such as eggs, fish, white and limited quantities of red meat, high fibre and fruits & veggies, is shown to have a positive impact on the reproductive health of men and women.

The writer is VP at Vitabiotics, Fitness & Nutrition Expert

# Good nutrition is critical to optimal health

Key to maintaining cognitive function may be a combination of several healthy habits like moving, eating plenty of omega-3 fatty acids and staying social, says DR C S MYTHREYI

Good health is no accident, it's a result of consistent healthy habits. Today's competitive world takes a heavy toll on our health.

More so in women as she has to multitask to maintain balance in her family and career in midst of hormonal changes she undergoes throughout her life.

Ongoing physical and emotional health as you age, start by reforming the simple choices you make each day from early age.

### Eat well

■ Yes you've heard it right. Good nutrition is critical to optimal health. Diet deprivation to lose weight is not good nutrition

■ Eat 7 to 10 servings of fruit and vegetables per day. Eat more whole grains

■ Reduce your intake of red and processed meats and limit alcohol. Consume more vegetable protein

■ Eat less refined sugar

### Keep moving

■ To stay healthy you do need to keep moving.

■ Movement variety is the key as it uses various muscles and joints

■ Brisk walking daily for at least 30 to 40 minutes a day



**Dr C S Mythreyi**  
Senior Consultant – Obstetrics & Gynecology, Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital Delhi

It can be supplemented by taking the stairs at work, a 10-15 minute walk during lunch, getting up from your desk frequently or having a small pedaling device at your desk.

### Manage stress

Stress is an inevitable part of life. A little bit of short-term stress has actually been shown to sharpen our cognitive skills and strengthen our immune system; but long-term,

chronic stress can really take a toll on our health.

To overcome it, do things that are enjoyable such as meditation, prayer, tai chi, yoga, or deep breathing on daily basis. Face day to day challenges in more planned and enjoyable way.

### Maintain your brain

Cognitive function is critical to aging well, maintaining independence, and staying happy.

The key to maintaining cognitive function may be a combination of several healthy habits like moving, eating plenty of omega-3 fatty acids, and staying social.

### Sleep tight

Sleep is an integral component of health. During sleep, the body rests and regenerates. You need 6-8 hrs of sleep per day.

Peaceful good sleep can be attained by:

■ Avoiding alcohol at bedtime

■ Having early dinner

■ Avoiding gadgets

■ Sleeping according to your circadian rhythm

### Regular checkups

Regular checkups and screening exams are critical for preventing illness or catching it early, when it is

most treatable.

### Blood pressure screening

At least once every two years, starting at age 20, for adults ageing 40 and above annual screening is recommended.

### Pap Smears

Beginning at age 21 and until age 65, you should have a pap smear every three years. If you are 30 or older, you can have the test every five years if you combine it with a screen for HPV.

### Mammograms

A mammogram, which screens for breast cancer, is recommended every two years from the age of 50. If you have a family history of the disease, or other concerns, talk to your doctor about starting annual screening earlier.

### Bone density screening

Women should start getting screened for osteoporosis with a bone density test at age 65, frequency of which depends on risk factors.

### Blood tests

Starting around age 45, women should get regular annual blood tests including blood sugar, thyroid function tests, complete blood count, lipid profile and urine R/M.

## INBRIEF

### Innovative Iron Women campaign to tackle anaemia

Sports and wellness nutrition brand Steadfast Nutrition launched a one-of-a-kind initiative to put the spotlight on the neglected issue of women's health and women athletes who have silently revolutionised Indian sports. Aptly titled Celebrating Iron Women, the campaign reached a crescendo with a high-profile event in Noida on March 5, 2022.

Prominent sportswomen from the fields of football, powerlifting, bodybuilding, and cycling discussed the Challenges Faced by Women Athletes and the Way Forward. They included Indian women's football team defender Dalima Chhibber, India's pioneer bodybuilding athlete Dr Rita Jairath, physique athlete and this year's reigning bodybuilding champion Surbhi Jaiswar, and anatomy professor and physique athlete Dr Mridula Sakia.

The other highlight of the occasion included a talk by nutrition experts on women's essential nutrient needs, measures to achieve an iron-clad plan for women's health, the prevalent problem of iron deficiency anaemia among the majority of the Indian population, particularly women, and way forward. The brand also launched a supplement targeted to fill the gap between the availability of good quality iron supplements and the nutritional needs.



# A MANY-SPLENDoured SPREAD

The New York's annual Asian Art Week will have Christie's presenting over 40 works from *The Visionary Collection* of Mahinder and Sharad Tak, says UMA NAIR



Vasudeo S Gaitonde's untitled work

**PREVIEW IN MUMBAI**  
Sonal Singh, managing director, Christie's India commented, "The collection this season is incredible and we look forward to welcoming back our collectors, art lovers and audience alike with an exhibition that epitomises the passion for collecting."  
Nishad Avari, head of sale, South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art, Christie's, remarked, "Over the last 50 years,



Bhupen Khakhar's *The Banyan Tree*

Mahinder and Sharad Tak have put together one of the most important collections of South Asian modern and contemporary art in North America. Apart from pioneering collectors, they are dedicated patrons of the arts and respected philanthropists. Highlights include

major paintings by Bhupen Khakhar, Manjit Bawa, Arpita Singh and Sayed Haider Raza with impressive exhibition histories, appearing at auction for the first time. Also included are exceptional works by Maqbool Fida Husain, Rameshwar Broota, Jogen Chowdhury and

Jagdish Swaminathan, all close friends of the collectors."

## FIVE STELLAR WORKS

Amongst the works are a subtle and soft-hued VS Gaitonde, a brilliant Bhupen Khakar painting of *Banyan Tree*, a fascinating *Still Life*



Francis Newton Souza's *Still Life*

by FN Souza and a moody cityscape by Ram Kumar. The Gaitonde is an expression of a softly pealing bhajan or a raga that has a host of recurring tranquil phases that define its sound of the gavel. The next masterpiece is a 1958 work by Ram Kumar considered to be Gaitonde's best friend. Moody and filled with embers of memory and experience and a resonant hint of houses and architecture tones this is a work that brings home the cerebral aesthetic of the artist.

Souza's *Still Life* of a Eucharist table, replete with all the symbols, is a study in cubist splendour. While Souza was not a believer the sacrament but its entire ritualistic ardour remained in his memory. As a child, Souza would attend Mass with his grandmother and had an epicurean eye in his habits of observation. The magnificence of this work is the mosaic background that has Byzantine echoes as well as the contours of the Eucharist elements that have been created with solid lines to create a spiritual echo. Bhupen Khakhar's *Banyan Tree* is a work that creates its choreography in character and charisma. Last, but not least, is

Arpita Singh's *Woman Plucking Flowers*, a work that reflects the paradoxes of risks and dangers and a life that is far from pretty or beautiful because it is fraught with danger. Over the decades, Mahinder and Sharad Tak have been showcasing India's rich cultural heritage to their community of neighbours and friends in America, linking her past and present and building a strong foundation for the future. The scope and depth of the Tak Collection speak of the friendships that the duo has built with several artists and their longstanding investment in their South Asian heritage.

# Paint the town

The Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi collaborated with two artists to tell stories of art, travel and their coming together in public spaces. By TEAM VIVA



The Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi has turned the city walls into its canvas to tell stories of art, travel and their coming together in public spaces, while also promoting cross-cultural collaboration between India and Germany

Graphic Travelogues #Murals is a unique collaboration to make art more accessible and democratic, and highlights the cross-cultural collaboration between two young women artists who paint their first-ever mural. The Goethe-Institut partnered with St+art India to realise the vision of the project and to take art to the public spaces in Delhi and Chennai, while promoting a creative exchange of ideas on the theme of travel and its evolution during the pandemic.

Artists from across the globe were engaged to create Graphic Travelogues, a digital platform dedicated to comics, focusing on the subject of travel since 2019. Taking this journey to another dimension, Goethe-Institut and St+art launched an open call to invite one German and one Indian artist to collaboratively work on two murals — one



in Delhi's Lodhi Art District and the other in Kannagi Art District, Chennai.

The selected artists, Greta Von Richthofen and Aashti Miller, were encouraged to work on thought-provoking ideas about the meaning of 'travel' from a broad lens. During the unprecedented time of the pandemic, when physical travel and any kind of free movement was halted, they found themselves tucked away with their thoughts, and were transported to an ocean of imagination. Thus, the artists explore the idea of 'traveling in the mind' through these murals— seen as a journey that anyone can make, regardless of culture, background, or spatial limitations.

The flying and running fish, and birds playfully depict different ways of traveling: over water, in the air, and on land. This journey seeks to emphasise the sense of discovery that travelling entails, relaying how crucial it is to cultivate inclusive and diverse perspectives for an enriching and meaningful experience of life. Therefore, from an expansive lens to a site-specific one, the artists include hyper-localised elements that become symbolic of this journey.

Depicting local flora and fauna, traditional and historical elements inspired by Mughal architecture and fantastical creatures, the work further explores travel to one's past, through a shared nostalgia. Similarly, in Chennai, the artists make references to the city through a localised and engaging vocabulary.

The murals differ in colour and motifs, but connect to one another by showcasing the positive power and immense possibilities of imagination and creativity, which enters the mind in Chennai and flows out of the hands in Delhi. This conceptual connection thus 'travels' across two diverse cities.

As we all recover and return to the new normal, we might be fish out of the water, but Miller and Richthofen believe that their explorations have taught them to embrace this discomfort and translate it into a magical journey.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



## BUSHOW. A MASKED CELEBRATION

During Farsang, the carnival season in Hungary, a range of events are held across the country to scare winter away. Busójárás is the season's main event which gained a place on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009. Described as "more than a social event", it was included for its social and cultural importance. The Hungarikum Committee added the MohácsiBusójárás, a masked end-of-winter tradition to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012. Liszt Institute Hungarian Cultural Centre Delhi, brought the festive carnival for the first time to India by having a Busó Mask Carnival. The event was curated by eminent artist Neeraj Mitra who has been closely associated with the activities of the Cultural Centre for the past 20 years. With participation from various Design and Art Schools from Delhi NCR like the Pearl Academy, IVS School of Design, Ivs, NIIFT and Jamia Millia Islamia, the show brought the essence of Busó to Delhi in the real sense. The evening also saw a dance performance by the Hashtag group.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



## Motherhood – An Artistic Ode to Mother Teresa art exhibition

Actor Salman Khan will showcase his art in a first-ever solo show Titled *Motherhood – An Artistic Ode to Mother Teresa*. Three paintings will be displayed with two new additions titled *Still In Hope of Compassion and Begging for Peace*. The show is presented by Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation & AGP World, in association with Being Human - The Salman Khan Foundation, gallery g, and Artiere Gallery.

**Where:** <https://artsandculture.google.com>



## A Bird Call art exhibition

A solo exhibition by Delhi-based artist, educator and conservationist, Rupa Samaria, showcases myriads of birds from India and other parts of the world. It explores the avian world through lifelike imagery and stunning colours while understanding the vulnerability of endangered birds and their homes. The exhibition is an endeavour to give a voice to birds that are fast disappearing today. In India, the illegal trade of protected bird species has been going on for years. Owls, especially, have been on the

receiving end of this for they are sought for their body parts like skulls, talons, beaks, feathers, and even blood—a practice driven by irrational myths. Meanwhile, sparrows are being rendered homeless due to the modern 'matchbox style' architecture that makes it difficult for the bird to build nests. Thanks to us these birds have been pushed to the brink of extinction. It's high time we



**Where:** Visual Arts Gallery, IHC

**When:** March 14 -23

do something to save them. Knowledge like this also helps the public to understand why it's so serious when a bird species declines or goes extinct. It's not just a pretty bird disappearing thousands of miles away – it's the loss of a vital component in a complex web of interactions. Without it, the whole ecosystem may fall.

## The Power Within, The Power Beyond art exhibition



World University of Design is putting up an art exhibition on the International Women's Day, *The Power Within, The Power Beyond* curated by Akansha Wadhwani. The participating women artists including Arpana Caur, Dimple B Shah, Dipti Gupta, Dr Sushma Yadav, Gayatri Apte, Kanchan Chander, Kavita Nayar, Manjari Sharma, Nalini Misra Tyabji, Nupur Kundu, Rini Dhumal, Usha Garodia and Vasudha Thozhur.

**Where:** Gallery Art Konsult # 1 Basement, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi

**When:** March 10 -15

## Ambivalence photography exhibition

A photography exhibition by Sunando Mazumdar, *Ambivalence*, has the the daily hustle-bustle of life as the theme. The pictures may reflect a distorted version of socially constructed ideas of 'beauty'. The photography exhibition is an outlook between factual and actual.



**Where:** Dhoomimal gallery, 8-A block Connaught Place, New Delhi

**When:** Till March 20 from 11 am to 7 pm



# Sindhu, Lakshya lead India's campaign



PTI ■ MUELHEIM AN DER RUHR

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and world championship medal-winners Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen will be the top Indian contenders at the German Open Super 300 badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday.

While Sindhu eased to a title win at Syed Modi International and Lakshya grabbed his maiden Super 500 trophy at Indian Open in January, Srikanth saw the momentum of the World Championships fizzle out a bit after withdrew from the Delhi due to COVID-19 infection.

The Lucknow title was Sindhu's first since the World Championship gold in 2019 and it must have eased the pressure a bit but the Indian is well aware that she will have to hit top gear during the European leg in a hectic year which also has big-ticket events such as the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

Sindhu, seeded seventh, will open her campaign against Thailand's world No 11 Busanan Ongbamrunphan this week.

A win will bring her face-to-face with Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt and another possible victory can see her clash with top seed and Olympic Silver-medallist Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei.

World Silver-medallist Lakshya



too has been in fine form and he will start his campaign against Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen. If the 20-year-old from Almora puts it past the Thai, he is likely to meet fourth seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia.

Srikanth, on the other hand, endured a frustrating phase after being forced out of the events in India due to COVID-19. The 29-year-old, however, started training as soon as he recovered and is eager to find his rhythm.

The eighth-seeded Indian will face France's Brice Leverdez in his campaign opener.

A win is likely to pit him against China's Lu Guang Zu in the second round and if Srikanth can cross the hurdle, he is expected to take on top seed and reigning Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen.

It is an important year for HS Prannoy as well as he continues his comeback after recovering from lingering side-effects of COVID-19.

A former top 10 player, Prannoy reached three back-to-back quarterfinals -- the World Championship, India Open, and Syed Modi International -- and would look to carry the momentum when he faces seventh-seeded Ng Ka Long Angus in

his opening round here.

London Olympics Bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal, who has been troubled by injuries and illness, will also be in action after losing early at India Open and pulling out of the Lucknow event in January.

The two-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist will open against Singapore's Yeo Jia Min.

Having regained fitness after laying low due to a calf injury, former commonwealth games champion Parupalli Kashyap too will be back in action, taking on Thailand's young sensation Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

Commonwealth Games Silver-medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who notched up their maiden Super 500 title at India Open, will open against China's Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi, while Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun will clash with sixth seeds Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi from Singapore.

In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will square off against fifth seeds Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida of Japan, while Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Pullula will take on Netherlands' Debora Jille and Cheryl Seinen.

In mixed doubles, India will be represented by the pairings of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto, and Sai Pratheek K and N Sikki Reddy.



## 1 lakh people to attend Warne's State funeral at MCG

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Shane Warne's state funeral will be held at the iconic MCG in front of an expected crowd of 100,000 people in a fitting farewell to the Australian spin king in the next two to three weeks, according to reports here.

The public memorial will be held after Warne's family mourn him at a private service. The details of the icon's last rites after the memorial service, however, are not yet known.

Warne's manager James Erskine did not confirm MCG as the venue for the state funeral but hinted that no other stadium would be an appropriate one considering the stature of the legendary Australian.

"But where else?" Erskine told 'The Age'.

A date has not been fixed as Warne's family waits for his body to be returned to Melbourne following his sudden death from a suspected heart attack at Koh Samui in Thailand on Friday.

'The Age' quoted sources as saying that Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews wanted to attend the state funeral and were working to find a suitable date with Warne's family.

The MCG was Warne's favourite ground and the scene of his famous hat-trick against England in the Boxing Day Test in 1994, taking the wickets of tail-enders Phil DeFreitas, Darren Gough and Devon Malcolm.

Warne has his own statue at the MCG ground, and it has become a central location for fans to pay their respects with numerous flowers laid alongside beer cans of Victoria Bitter, packets of cigarettes and meat pies.

The 52-year-old will also have the Southern Stand named after him, which will become the SK Warne Stand.

## Aus trail Pak by 27 runs in 1st Test

KAP ■ RAWALPINDI

Australia's batters flourished on a flat wicket on Monday to cut Pakistan's lead to 27 runs as the first Test in Rawalpindi heads toward a draw.

Australia, playing its first Test in Pakistan since 1998, reached 449-7 at stumps in its first innings on day 4 on a grassless wicket with Marnus Labuschagne (90) and Steve Smith (78) scoring half-centuries.

Cameroon Green (48) showed himself to be a Test all-rounder by spending more than two hours at the crease, facing 109 balls.

Mitchell Starc, who bats at number eight, spent almost the last hour and was not out on 12 with skipper Pat Cummins not out on 4 as stumps were drawn three overs before scheduled because of bad light.



Pakistan had declared its first innings at 476-4 late on day 2 on the back of big centuries from Azhar Ali (185) and Imam-ul-Haq (157). "There's not a great deal of pace and bounce in [the wicket] for the seamers, that's for sure," Smith said. "I thought it would break up a little bit more and probably turn a bit more from the start, but it probably hasn't done so."

Opening batter Usman Khawaja narrowly missed out on a century in the country of his birth on Sunday when he was dismissed for 97, but shared a rapid 156-run opening wicket stand with David Warner, who made 68. On a docile wicket where there was no appreciable turn for the spinners, left-arm spinner Nauman Ali grabbed 4-107 mainly because Australia's batters went for extravagant performance.

## Axar Patel replaces Kuldeep for 2nd SL Test Match

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Fit-again all-rounder Axar Patel has replaced left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav for India's second Test against Sri Lanka, beginning here on Saturday.

The Indian team management has released Kuldeep from the squad.

Axar had been recovering from a shin injury that had forced him to miss the South Africa tour and the T20 series against West India. He had also tested positive for

COVID-19 recently. "Axar was the first choice but had to undergo recovery and hence Kuldeep was a back up," a BCCI source told PTI.

"Now Axar is fit and back so Kuldeep has been released," the source added.

At the time of announcing the squad for the two-Test series against Sri Lanka, the BCCI had said Axar was expected to be fit for the second game.

Kuldeep last played a Test in February 2021. India won the first Test against Sri Lanka by an innings and 222 runs.



# SA cricketers face test of loyalty ahead of IPL: Elgar

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South African Test skipper Dean Elgar has urged his teammates to choose national duty in a series against Bangladesh over the upcoming IPL as it is a test of loyalty for them and they must prioritise their country.

South Africa are set to play three ODIs and two Tests against Bangladesh starting March 18, while the IPL is

scheduled to be held from March 26 to May 29. The ODIs will be held on March 18, 20 and 23, followed by two Tests starting on March 31 and ending on April 12.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Cricket South Africa has left it on the players to decide between the lucrative league and turning up for the country in the Bangladesh series.

"The players need to give Cricket South Africa an indica-



tion of if they are keen to go to the IPL or if they are keen to play for the Test side. It's a bit of a tough one putting that in the players' box but this I guess, this is where you see where players' loyalty lies," Elgar said. "They mustn't forget that Test cricket or one-day cricket got them into the IPL and not the other way around."

As many as 11 South African players, including six Test regulars and three ODI

players, have been roped in by different franchises at this year's IPL.

In fact, South Africa's pace attack -- comprising Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje and Marco Jansen -- and top batters Aiden Markram, Rassie van der Dussen, David Miller, all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius and limited-overs wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock -- all have IPL contracts.

## Barca, Atleti return to La Liga top 4

AP ■ MADRID

Barcelona and Atletico Madrid rejoined La Liga's top four on Sunday after Barca needed a late penalty to beat Elche 2-1 before Atletico defeated Real Betis 3-1, Joao Felix scoring twice at the Benito Villamarin.

It is the first time Barcelona and Atletico have both been in La Liga's Champions League qualification spots since August.

Atletico have struggled for solidity and consistency since winning the title last season while Barca are still recovering from a financial crisis and the departure of Lionel Messi.

Yet both teams will be growing in confidence that they can now achieve their minimum objective, which is to

avoid missing out on the Champions League next season and the further financial damage that would cause.

Barca are now third, level on points with Atletico in fourth, but having played a game fewer. They might both fancy their chances of finishing second, with stuttering Sevilla only seven points in front.

Atletico's win over Betis was particularly significant given Betis started the day in third and have looked the mostly likely candidates all season to upset the established top four.

Barcelona, meanwhile, had to come from behind at the Martinez Valero after Fidel capitalised on a Pedri error, only for Barca to come storming back thanks to two substitutes.

## NZ beat B'desh by 9 wickets



PTI ■ DUNEDIN

Hosts New Zealand registered their first win of the tournament as they inflicted a nine-wicket defeat on Bangladesh in a rain-curtailed ICC Women's World Cup match here on Monday.

New Zealand bowlers first restricted Bangladesh to 140 for 8 after a long rain delay

before Suzie Bates hit a strokeful unbeaten half-century to power the hosts to a victory with 42 balls to spare in the match that was reduced to 27 overs apiece.

The win earned New Zealand, who lost to West Indies in the tournament opener, two valuable points as they rose to the third place while, Bangladesh remain winless from their two matches and are in seventh spot.

Chasing the target, the White Ferns had a sedate start. Their innings was further dented in the seventh over when spinner Salma Khatun sent skipper Sohie Devine (14) packing but apart from that the Bangladesh bowlers didn't bother the hosts much. Bates used all her experience and guile in her 79 from just 68 deliveries. She stitched a match-winning 108-run stand with Amelia Kerr (47 not out). It was Bates' 28th ODI fifty as she became just the sixth batter to score 1000 runs in Women's World Cup matches when she found the boundary late in her innings.

The all-rounder hit eight fours, two more than the entire Bangladesh team, while Kerr found the fence four times.

## Robinson out of 1st WI Test

AP ■ NORTH SOUND

Seamer Ollie Robinson was ruled out of England's first Test match against West Indies because of a back problem, with uncapped seamer Saqib Mahmood stepping into the squad.

Robinson pulled up midway through an over during the warmup match against a Cricket West Indies President's XI and was unable to take part in practice on Sunday.

England was already unlikely to gamble on the 28-year-old Robinson's fitness for the match, which starts on Tuesday, but the latest injury settled the issue and allowed Mahmood to take his spot in a 12-man squad for the three-test series.

England interim head coach Paul Collingwood and captain Joe Root must now decide whether to hand the Lancashire quick a debut in an all-seam attack or stick with the variety of Jack Leach's left-arm spin.

The starting lineup will be confirmed at the toss.



## Fernandez retains Monterrey crown

AP ■ MONTERREY

Canada's Leylah Fernandez saved five match points before retaining her WTA Monterrey crown in controversial fashion with victory over Colombia's Camila Osorio on Sunday.

The 19-year-old Fernandez battled to a grueling 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) win in just under three hours after a dramatic final set.

Fifth seed Osorio looked poised to clinch only the second WTA title of her career after earning her fifth match point when 6-5 up in the decisive third set on Fernandez's serve.

But 2021 US Open runner-up Fernandez then lodged a complaint with tournament officials, appearing to argue that a faulty light in the stadium had distracted her.

Officials ordered the lights to be repaired, forcing a delay of around 15 minutes before play could resume.

When the action got back under way, Osorio's rhythm had been broken. Fernandez duly clawed back the match point, and held serve to force a tie break.

## Giroud sinks Napoli to fire Milan top

AP ■ NAPLES

Olivier Giroud struck a huge blow for AC Milan in the Serie A title race with the only goal in Sunday's 1-0 win at Napoli which fired his team top of the pile.

Veteran forward Giroud diverted home a wayward shot three minutes after the break at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona to put Milan two points clear of local rivals Inter Milan, who had claimed the summit with a 5-0 thumping of Salernitana on Friday.

The Frenchman's eighth league goal of the season was his first away from the San Siro since signing from Chelsea in the summer and



came on an eventful night for the 35-year-old. Earlier, Alvaro Morata scored for the first time since mid-January with 20 minutes on the clock at the Allianz Stadium in Turin to

keep Juve in the race.

Juve are applying pressure thanks to a run of 14 league matches without defeat stretching back to the end of November.

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Kevin De Bruyne and Riyad Mahrez scored twice as Manchester City reopened a six-point lead at the top of the Premier League by brushing aside Manchester United 4-1 at the Etihad on Sunday.

Defeat means there is now a 22-point gap between the clubs and is another blow to United's chances of just qualifying for the Champions League next season.

The Red Devils now trail Arsenal by a point in fourth, who also have three games in hand.

At the top of the table, Liverpool also have a game in hand to reduce City's advantage to three points.

But Pep Guardiola's men responded to the pressure applied by the Reds' seven-

# Manchester is Blue



game winning run in the league by bouncing back from two sup-par performances against Tottenham and Everton.

Just as in their meeting at Old Trafford earlier in the season, there was a gulf in class between the sides as City secured just a second league double over their local rivals since an Abu Dhabi takeover in 2008 swung the balance of power in Manchester.

United were without the injured Cristiano Ronaldo and Edinson Cavani in attack, but it was defenders Raphael Varane and Luke Shaw, missing due to positive cases of coronavirus, whose presence was most keenly missed.